John 8:12 Study

8 Feb 2026

John 8:12. When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- Read all of John 8:12 to 59
- Are light and darkness actually opposites? Discuss.

What is the backstory to 8:12? Look up and discuss the following:

- 1 Tim 6:15-16.
- Ephesians 6:12
- Genesis 1:2-3.
- John 1:4-5
- John 3:19-21.

Jesus has been at the Feast of tabernacles and despite the inclusion of an encounter with a woman caught in adultery in ch 8:1-11, there is a good chance that Jesus made his announcement "I am the light of the world'' right at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles. What bearing might this have on the significance of his announcement?

Info about the Feast of tabernacles and light to discuss together

- 4 x 75 foot all menorah were lit amid great celebration. The light from the temple illuminated all of Jerusalem.
- This looks back to the pillar of cloud and of fire from Exodus.
- Maybe it also back to the pure light of creation.
- It also looks forward to the messiah who will come. Light will conquer darkness.

As the feast ends and the lights that have brilliantly illuminated the whole city fade, at this poignant moment, in front of the thousands gathered, Jesus proclaims himself as the true light not only of Israel, but of the whole world, the ultimate fulfilment of what the feast anticipates!

'Everyone there knew the Menorah would be extinguished after the feast. But Jesus indicated that his light would remain forever.' (Kenneth O. Gangel, John, vol. 4, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 161.)

What situation are the Pharisees in, rejecting Jesus' claims? Discuss.

Two possible applications to consider:

Application 1 – Walk the whole journey in the Light

- How tempting is it to divide our lives into sacred and secular, or inner life and outward life, or spiritual life and professional life?
- How can we bring every thought into captivity to Christ, and let his Word illuminate every part of our journey?
- What are the most difficult areas of life to bring under the illumination of God's Word / Christ?

Are you walking in the light?

- Is Jesus illuminating all of life, not just the select bits of the journey where you want his guidance?

Application 2 – Jesus makes the Father Visible

- ***John 8:19 "If you knew me, you would know my Father also…'***
- ***Jesus' mission is to lead us to the Father.***
- The Spirit fills us because we are in Christ and Jesus sent the Spirit after He ascended. He said, ***'I will not leave you as orphans.' John 14:18***
- ***Romans 8:15-16. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." [16] The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.***

Are you walking in the light?

- Is Jesus illuminating the Father and making Him visible? Are you walking as a Son, not an orphan?