

Do You See?

Pastor Jeff Thompson | John 8:12–20

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Ice Breaker

What is a highlight from this past week? Or: Describe the darkest place — a place with the least amount of light, like a cave — you have ever been.

Understanding the Text in Context

Re-read John 8:12-20 and think back to earlier passages in John. What does Christ declare about Himself? What are the people saying (see John 7:40-52)?

What do the Pharisees believe about Jesus? Despite knowing the law and the prophets, why are they missing what Christ is saying? How do we miss what Christ is saying in our day?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

Jesus is “the light of the world” (Jn 8:12). Describe how Light is related to Salvation: Read Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:1-5, John 3:19, John 3:35-36 transform more than just our knowledge?

Living Out the Truth

Following Jesus means allowing Him (the Light) to shine on all areas of your life and shape you into someone more like Himself. What are some common ways people become comfortable living in the darkness (inside and outside the Church), perhaps without even realizing it? What areas of your life

do you think Jesus wants to shine a light on?

Do you find yourself viewing your faith through the lens of religious achievement/performance? Are you trying to earn what has been given freely?

Pray for one another. Pray for one other person who needs to see Jesus as “the light of the world” and “not walk in darkness.”

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

If your child described what it means to follow Jesus based only on watching your daily life, what do you hope they would say? What might they actually say?

How can your family remind one another this week that we obey Jesus because He has already given us life, not to earn His love?

Further Study

Watch the excellent series: “[Can I Trust the Bible?](#)” especially Episode 2: “The Right Texts.”

For a brief overview, read: “[Does John 7:53—8:11 belong in the Bible?](#)” or “[If the Bible Has Been Added To, Can We Trust It?](#)” or “[Do We Have the Original Text? Some Optimism in Textual Criticism](#)”

Also read “[King James Only](#),” which includes a brief history of the English Bible.

For a deeper dive:

- An academic article: “[Text-Criticism and the Pulpit: Should One Preach About the Woman Caught in Adultery?](#)”
- A book: [Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books](#) by Michael J. Kruger. Also, search for articles or interviews with the author, including “[Can We Trust the New Testament?](#)”

Read your John Study Journals, looking ahead to next week’s sermon and text for John 8:21-30: “Don’t Die on ‘E’”, “Legally Blind to Jesus”, and “What More Do You Need?”