ENCOUNTERING JESUS: JESUS AS LIGHT

Life Group Questions | Sunday, March 7, 2021

Throughout this 10-week series, we will focus on a different image or metaphor of Jesus presented in the Gospel of John. Today, we will focus on Jesus as Light.

Read John 8:12-20. This scene takes place at the temple during the Festival of Tabernacles. The Festival of Tabernacles was one of the three main festivals that the Lord told the Israelites they needed to observe (Deut 16:16). It’s a massive celebration—huge pillars of fire and torches, dancing, shouting, as people rejoiced in God’s presence and provision in the past that would lead toward hope for salvation in the future. They remember what God has done and looking forward in hopeful anticipation for the Messiah, for the time when God’s light will shine on them.

How does this context impact your reading of the story? What new details or insights emerge?

Read Colossians 1:12-14. As a group, discuss the dominion of darkness versus the kingdom of light. What attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors do you associate with each part of this contrasting metaphor?

Read John 3:18-21. John says people loved darkness instead of light because of the fear of being exposed. Discuss the following illusions of safety that darkness can give:

- It keeps other people from knowing that we don’t have it all together
- It keeps us from dealing with the consequences of our actions
- It keeps us safe from feeling shame in front of others for our sins
- It provides a place for us to continue in our sin
- It keeps us safe from people knowing us and not loving us

What illusion of safety most pulls you? Do you have a story to share about moving from the illusive safety of darkness to freedom in the light?

Read Ephesians 5:8-10. What does it mean to live in the light? Why does God want that for us? What are some regular practices and commitments that help you walk in the light?