



John 8:12-30 Small Group Questions

- Read John 8:12-30 as a group. What strikes you as important about this text? How does this passage build on the conversations in chapters 6 and 7?
- Which feast is Jesus at? How did the theme of light inform that feast, based on what Wesley said? How does this help us understand the significance of Jesus saying that He is the light of the world?
 - What other stories or images from the Old Testament can you remember about the light of God?
 - In what ways does the light of Jesus fulfill the light of God in the Old Testament? What does Jesus' light tell us about His identity?
- How would you summarize the conversation that Jesus has with the Pharisees in verses 13-19? What is the problem that the Pharisees have with Jesus? How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees?
 - How is Jesus' judgment different than the judgment of the Pharisees?
 - Why do you think that Jesus' response angers the Pharisees so much?
- Wesley mentioned that, like the Pharisees, when we walk in darkness we really are walking in ignorance. What is spiritual ignorance? What does it mean to be ignorant about the work of Christ in the world?

- Wesley said that a foremost sign of this spiritual ignorance is the belief that we can generate our own light. How do you see people trying to generate their own light?
 - How do you try to generate your own light in your life?
 - What happens when we try to generate our own light? Be specific.
 - Wesley said that one consequence of trying to generate our own life is that we are unable to see ourselves accurately. How have you experienced this? Why is ignorance about our own hearts such a deadly thing?
 - How do you see people spinning their sin as virtue? How have you spun your sin as virtue before? What does it take for us to see our sin as it really is?
- Wesley said that, as with the pillar of fire in the Old Testament, Jesus is the light of the world that people are called to follow. How does following Jesus as the light of the world provide a solution to the ignorance and denial of the darkness?
 - Wesley said that one way we come to the light is to recognize Jesus as the *only* source of life. How do we or others sometimes mistake Jesus for being *a* source of life rather than *the* source?
 - Wesley also said that to come to the light is to recognize that God will never abandon us. How does the light of Jesus show us that God will never abandon us to the darkness? How does this knowledge help to combat fear and suffering?
- In verses 21-24, what does Jesus say is the state of humanity without Him? How do we avoid dying in our sins, according to Jesus?
 - Wesley said that one of the greatest sins that we commit is the belief that God and others are only props for our own stories. How does the teaching of Jesus in this passage upend this narrative?

- Why do people want to see themselves as the center of their story? What is the freedom that we experience by coming to the cross and acknowledging Jesus as the center of our story?
- How does the cross give us freedom to not live in the darkness?