

Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

The Light: The Light Supreme (John 1:6–8)

Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- If you are a concertgoer, what is the best opening act you’ve seen?
- Which do you prefer, to be in charge or to support the person in charge?
- Who are your favorite hero-and-sidekick or buddy pair from TV or movies?

Dig

After reading John 1:6–8 together, discuss these questions.

1. Look at this text for repeated words or phrases. What terms are repeated? What do these repeated terms say about John the Baptist? About Jesus?
2. Do the same with John 1:19–37. What words are repeated? What do these emphasize about John and Jesus? Also, how does this narration fit with what was said about John and Jesus in 1:6–8.
3. Another story about John the Baptist is found in John 3:25–30. What do you see here that carries on the ideas in the previous texts? What words or phrases jump out to you?
4. Compare what is said about John the Baptist in 1:6 to what Jesus says in John 17:18 and 20:21. How does the story of John and Jesus continue?

Summary: God sends John the Baptist as the continuation of the long line of people he sent to proclaim his promises. John put his focus on Jesus supremely, as the true light of God. That calls for a response from us: to believe, and not just with the mind but with all of who we are.

Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- Our God is a sending God. He sent the leaders and prophets of Old Testament Israel. He sent John the Baptist. God the Father sent God the Son in the person of Jesus. And Jesus sends his followers. What does all this sending tell you about God? About yourself?
- John put the spotlight solely on Jesus. Who is someone who has put the spotlight on Jesus for you? How did that person do it?
- Saying we believe is for most of us easier than putting what we believe into practice. Where are you struggling in putting belief in Jesus into practice? What steps can you take to move forward in that struggle? (If your group includes people who aren’t yet believers in Jesus, you might ask: What makes belief in Jesus seem difficult to you right now? What steps might you take to begin to address that difficulty?)

Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

- What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?

- In what areas of your life do you need the light of Jesus to shine?
- Are there specific ways in which you believe God may be sending you right now? How can we join you in prayer about those?