



Sermon Discussion Guide

February 15th, 2026 | John 8:12-30 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // The Gospel of John: Taste and See Who I Am

Summary

Pastor Greg opened by talking about how, even if we are not afraid of the dark, it can feel unsettling especially in unfamiliar places. In John 8:12-30, Jesus makes a bold claim during the Festival of Booths, when large lamps were lit to remember how God guided Israel through the wilderness. Pointing to this imagery, Jesus declares that He is the Light of the world and that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. He is not only guidance for today but the source of eternal life. The religious leaders believed they were already in the light because they were God's chosen people, yet Jesus tells them they are actually in darkness apart from him. They judge him by outward appearances and question his authority, but Jesus stands firm, saying that the Father testifies about Him. When asked who He is, Jesus identifies himself with the divine "I Am" meaning that he is God himself. Jesus is calling them to believe in who he is, to believe in what he has come to do and to believe that he has come to bring us light in the darkness, hope, comfort and life everlasting in the here and now and in eternity. Following Jesus means to believe in him and to live out that belief. To believe is to look into the darkness and say no, to follow the light even though the darkness can be enticing.

Discussion Questions (Read John 8:12-30):

Light

- The lamps reminded Israel of God guiding them in the wilderness. What is Jesus claiming about Himself by saying He is the Light of the world?
- Where in your life do you need Jesus' guidance right now?
- What would it look like to follow His light in that area?

Darkness

- Why did the religious leaders believe they were already in the light?
- The sermon mentioned that darkness deflects rather than reflects truth. What are some ways people deflect truth today?
- Are there areas where you might be resisting or deflecting what Jesus is showing you?

Belief

- What does Jesus mean when He refers to Himself as "I Am"?
- What does genuine belief look like in everyday life?
- How can we actively choose light over darkness this week?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- In one sentence, how would you explain what it means to follow Jesus as the Light of the world?

Spend time praying that God would reveal any darkness in your life and give you courage to walk in His light.