

## BOOK OF JOHN WEEK 16:

### “BE A LIGHT”

#### OPENING ILLUSTRATION //

Have you ever been stuck in a really dark room or place with no flash light or phone? This happens to me a lot and I almost always stub my foot on something or stumble across something else.

This can be how a lot of us live our lives. We stumble through life tripping and falling over everything that gets in our way because we are following what our world has to say and how many of you know that our world is a very dark place? This is why we need Jesus because...

#### MAIN POINT // JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

#### READ SCRIPTURE // JOHN 8:12-20 (pg.140)

#### Jesus, the Light of the World

**12** Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

**13** The Pharisees replied, “You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid.”

**14** Jesus told them, “These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don’t know this about me. **15** You judge me by human standards, but I do

not judge anyone. **16** And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father[a] who sent me is with me. **17** Your own law says that if two people agree about something, their witness is accepted as fact.[b] **18** I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other.”

**19** “Where is your father?” they asked.

Jesus answered, “Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father.” **20** Jesus made these statements while he was teaching in the section of the Temple known as the Treasury. But he was not arrested, because his time[c] had not yet come.

## **POINT ONE // SHARE THE LIGHT**

-In this passage, Jesus is explaining to this group of people who He is and why He is the light of the world. But instead of listening and trying to understand Him, they start to Judge Him.

### **HEALTH CHECK //**

- How many of us judge others before we understand the whole story?
  - Many of us judge others based on their outward appearance or how they act. But we never spend the time to sit down with them and really understand who they are or what they may be going through.

- John 8:15-16 “You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone. **16** And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me.”
- Jesus has more right than anyone to judge others, yet the Bible clearly says that He does not Judge ANYONE.
- Students it is time we stop judging others and start sharing the light of Jesus with others.

## POINT TWO // JUDGEMENT HIDES THE LIGHT

### ILLUSTRATION // Hidden Light

*Use a flashlight or the flashlight on your phone and start by having it on its lowest setting and then put a few fingers in front of it and then cover it with your whole hand.*

This is like many of us. We are saved and full of the Light of Jesus, but we are not letting His light shine in and through us.

-We judge someone, and are light starts to get covered up.

-We hang around people we should not be hanging out with, our light gets covered up.

-We listen to music we shouldn't be listening to or we watch something we should be watching and our light gets covered up.

*On your phone the flashlight has different settings, start to make it brighter now.*

-However, when we choose to read the Bible and hide his word in our hearts, our light starts to shine a little brighter.

**Psalm 119:11 “I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”**

-When we choose to listen to worship music and spend time praying, our light starts to shine a little bit brighter.

-When we start to find friends who want to grow in their faith and they challenge you to be more like Jesus, Your light starts to shine a little bit brighter.

**READ SCRIPTURE //** John 8:21-30 (pg.141)

### **The Unbelieving People Warned**

**21** Later Jesus said to them again, “I am going away. You will search for me but will die in your sin. You cannot come where I am going.”

**22** The people asked, “Is he planning to commit suicide? What does he mean, ‘You cannot come where I am going’?”

**23** Jesus continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not. **24** That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.”

**25** “Who are you?” they demanded.

Jesus replied, “The one I have always claimed to be. **26** I have much to say about you and much to condemn, but I won’t. For I say only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he is completely truthful.” **27** But they still didn’t understand that he was talking about his Father.

**28** So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I am he. I do nothing on my own but say only

what the Father taught me. **29** And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.” **30** Then many who heard him say these things believed in him.

### **POINT THREE // THE LIGHT IS ALWAYS WITH YOU**

**If you believe in Jesus and have been saved that means that on your good days and your bad days the light of Jesus still lives on the inside of you!**

-Jesus is always with you and loves you no matter what.

-This doesn't mean that we can do whatever we want, it means that we are a broken people and we make mistakes. But like verse 29 says: “**And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.**”

-The Lord will never desert you or leave you on your own. But as Christians it should be our desire to do what Pleases God.

***The only way we can please God is to submit to His authority in our lives.***

-Once we've been born again as a child of God (John 3:3), we are pleasing to Him.

-We are “in Christ” and therefore seen by God as perfect, as Christ is perfect.

-The Lord's righteousness was placed on our account while our sin was transferred to Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

-We don't have to work toward becoming pleasing to God. We are “accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6, NKJV), cleansed and forgiven through faith in Jesus. Because of that great gift and the love poured out on us by our heavenly Father, we discover many more ways to please Him.

## ILLUSTRATION // Pleasing God

The concept of pleasing God can be compared to marriage. A woman accepts a man's proposal and becomes his wife because she loves him and he loves her. They are as married and in love as two people can be, yet they seek ways to continue pleasing each other. He brings her flowers, not so that they will remain married, but because he delights in pleasing her. She gives him a backrub and wears the perfume he likes, not so that he will love her but because she loves him. Likewise, once we've entered into a spiritual relationship with God, we want to do things that honor and delight Him.

## ALTAR //

1. Basic Salvation call for those who have yet to be saved. Pray for them to invite the light (Jesus) into their lives.
2. For those that are saved: Challenge them be asking if they are doing what is pleasing God. Are they hanging around friends they shouldn't be, are they watching or listening to things they shouldn't be. Are they struggling with anything else?

*-Have they fully submitted to His Authority?*

**Open up altars for prayer with leaders over these things and worship.**