

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 19th March 2023

Come and See – Light of the World

We're working our way through the gospel of John in our Sunday morning services. Our home group studies will pick up the topic from the Sunday before the meeting. This means we won't cover the whole of the Gospel of John in these outlines. Feel free to adapt this content, or to study other passages.

John wrote his gospel so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20 v 30&31). As we study John together, keep that purpose in mind and ask, "How does this passage help me believe that Jesus is the Messiah and so live life to the full (eternal life)?"

This study is for the passage from the morning service on 19th Mar. If people aren't able to be at the service then please encourage them to catch up online via YouTube or the talks page on the Belmont Exeter website.

This outline is the bare bones of the study: more thought needs to be given to the way you start and finish the evening, use (or don't use) the questions themselves, and think about the way this passage may affect your own group members. Think about the big ideas and how to apply them to everyday life. Here are three book titles you may find helpful to have available for study leaders through the series.

John for Everyone by Tom Wright, pub. SPCK, (short 'daily' chapters on each section)
The Message of John by Bruce Milne, pub. IVP (more in depth analysis and explanation)
John for You by Josh Moody, pub. Goodbook Co (sermon style & with focus on application)

BIG IDEA: All who have Jesus have light to live by in every situation

WAY IN: Think of a time when you've been lost / stuck / confused. How did it feel? What helped you move forward?

READ: John 8 v 12 - 29

DIG IN

1. What part of the text or sermon had the greatest impact on you? Did you learn anything new about Jesus? The Bible? God? *This is an open question to see if there are particular themes to explore which are on the minds of the group.*
2. Pick out the questions that the Pharisees / crowd ask Jesus. What sort of things are they trying to understand about Jesus? And why? (v13,19,22, 25)
3. What evidence / backing does Jesus call upon to support his claim to be the light of the world? How will people come to recognize his real identity

LIVE IT OUT

1. How will you look to Jesus as your guiding light today, in a way that you did not, or struggled to, yesterday?

2. How can we become more confident in what Jesus says?
Take time to be familiar with what Jesus claims and why it matters. Be prepared to give an answer for the hope we have.

3. What situations do you find yourself in where you need the light of Jesus to shine? How can we help one another when we are in these circumstances?
Remind one another of the truth we live by, the person we trust in and the hope we have (see 2 Peter 1 preached on at the baptism service)

PRAYER

Are there experiences you can share which show how Jesus has guided / led / equipped / encouraged you?

Are there situations you are in and coming up in which you need the hope of the light of Jesus?

Take some time to give thanks for Jesus the light of the world. He shines in the darkness and isn't overcome by darkness. Pray for each other to see and follow the light of the world in the coming circumstances.