

the gospel of

# JOHN

he is the one

This Winter, our hope is to see Jesus in chapters 5-10 of John's Gospel. John shows us that He is the One. As God, He is the One with the right to judge, the power to provide soul food, who gives eternal life, and who can save and keep until the end. He is the One with real authority, who can give the Spirit and grant mercy. He is the One with the truth, sent from the Father who can truly see and grant sight. And He is the One who is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. For everything we need, He is the One. For everything we want, He is the One. Jesus is the One sent from the Father to be for us all that we have ever hoped and longed for.

## **PART 8: THE ONE WITH THE TRUTH**

Read the text: John 8:12-36 (vs. 12-20 & 31-36 included below)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." These words he spoke in the

treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

In the middle of the Festival of Lights, after the priests lit enormous oil lamps in the Temple, Jesus stands up and declares, “I am the light of the world.” As the Pharisees continue to question and reject Him, He declares, “I am He,” clearly stating that He is God. For those in darkness, like the Pharisees, they cannot even see their darkness and when the light shines, they reject it. But for all who follow Jesus, He brings light to their darkness and frees them from their sin. Jesus is the light of the world who enables all who believe in him and trust and obey his word to no longer walk in the darkness of ignorance and disobedience. If the Son sets you free you are free indeed!

### **Discussion Questions:**

*These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.*

1. All of us have experienced darkness. We feel lost, confused, stuck, and afraid. Are you currently feeling any of these? Where do you presently need the light of Jesus? Be specific.

2. Jesus brings light into our darkness. His people will see His light and experience freedom. As you think about your recent season of life, where has Jesus been shining light in your life? How have you experienced freedom in Jesus?
  
3. Are there areas of your life where you still feel stuck or trapped in sin? Where do you want to be free? If you're willing, share these specific areas with your group. Resist the urge to go into "problem-solving" mode with each other. Instead, listen to each other, understand and empathize with each other, and then pray. Pray for Jesus to set each of you free from the sins you feel stuck in.
  
4. Jesus is the light of the world and His words bring light into our life, bringing true freedom. That is why Jesus says, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." What does "abiding in His word" look like for you right now. Be specific and practical. How are you pursuing this? If you're not, how can you take steps to do this? How can your group help you?