Discussion Guide

Jesus Transforms by Illumination

GETTING STARTED

What kind of credentials (qualifications) are valued most by the people you work with or you would expect if someone claimed to be a pilot, surgeon, teacher, welder etc....? Why are they important?
What kind of credentials do the Pharisees expect from the Messiah?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

When and what happened to cause you to believe in Jesus as your Savior?
In what way is Jesus "uniquely" the Light of the world?
Without the light of Christ in your life, how would you be walking in darkness?
If you could X-ray the "soul" (without Christ and with Christ) what would we find? What is the difference between being "religious" and walking in the Light? (read 2 Timothy 3:5)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE DEEPER [John 8:12-30]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Who did Jesus say that He was? (8:12)
What did Jesus say would be the result of following Him? (8:12)
How did the Pharisees challenge Jesus? (8:13)
Why did Jesus say His own testimony was valid? (8:14)
Why did Jesus say His decisions were right? (8:15-16)
What two witnesses did Jesus claim testified on His behalf? (8:17-18)
Why did Jesus say that the Pharisees didn't know His Father? (8:19)
Why didn't anyone seize Jesus? (8:20)
How did the Jews respond to Jesus' words? (8:21-22)
What did Jesus say would be the consequence of not believing in Him? (8:23-24)
What question did the Jews ask Jesus? (8:25)
How did Jesus answer the Jews' question? (8:25-26)
At what point did Jesus say that the people would know who He was? (8:27-28)
Whom did Jesus say He pleased? (8:29)
How did the people respond to Jesus' words? (8:30)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How do you know God the Father?
In what way is Jesus the "light"?
How is Jesus the light in your world?
How were you in darkness before you believed in Jesus?
Why is Jesus' testimony credible to you?
Why are people today confused about Jesus' identity?
How is Jesus' relationship with God an example for our relationship with God?
What sign has Jesus given us to believe in?
Why is it sometimes hard to recognize how God is working in our lives?
How has the Christian life turned out to be different from what you expected?
In what way is Jesus an example for us to follow?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?
How can we pray for each other?