

The Essentials: The Gospel of John

Session 4: John 8: 12-20

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Read: 8: 12-20 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. Jesus says “I am the light of the world” (v. 12). Have you ever had an experience where Christianity helped you make sense of your own life? Share with your group if you feel comfortable.
2. Even in our present age we use the language of “witness” in a court setting. So why do the Pharisees claim that Jesus testifying about himself is invalid (v. 13)?
3. Why do the Pharisees feel the need to validate Jesus’ testimony in the first place? What about Jesus’ claim is so controversial to the Pharisees?
4. Many people around Jesus believed as they were healed and taught even while they were not religious experts; they saw “the light” (v. 12)! However, the religious experts, the Pharisees, ask all of the right questions, but don’t see “the light.” What does that do to the way you sympathize with the Pharisees? Why do you think the Pharisees wouldn’t simply believe that Jesus is the son of God?
5. The Pharisees clearly doubt that God could become human—that he could be so proximate and available. How do the Pharisees illuminate your own struggles to believe Jesus’ promises?
6. What is powerful about Jesus saying “You do not know my father” (v. 19)? What might it take for us to rediscover God in Jesus Christ?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 8: 12-20

¹² 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.” ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father^[a] who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” ¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ 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.