

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of July 10, 2016

John 8:12

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

### **Connection Questions:**

1. Why do you think it is important for the writer of John that the listeners understand God by consistently describing God by contrasting light against darkness?
2. Have you personally ever been in such a dark place, literally or figuratively, that you felt totally lost or hopeless? Describe your experience.
3. What is it about darkness that can cause us to be afraid?

4. What does light do to darkness? Describe, in as many ways as you can, how light can change our perspective of dark places.
  
5. In Rev. Adkins' sermon he says, "You can't properly experience the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday until you experience the darkness of his crucifixion." Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?
  
6. God's purpose from the very beginning was to bring light and life out of chaos and darkness. Describe in as many ways as you can how God accomplished this task throughout the biblical drama.
  
7. John uses the word life 47 times in his gospel and he usually describes it in terms of eternal life. Why is this idea so important to John and how is it connected to God?

8. Eternal life is not just what happens after we die, it is a state of being that God has already established. Discuss what you think this statement means. If you agree, what responsibility do we have to God's work, if any?
  
9. Tom Long from Emory Divinity School in Atlanta says, "What we really want in our deepest need is not to prove that there is a God somewhere who exists, or even scientific evidence that a resurrection happened some time ago in history. What we need is a God who is right here, knee-deep in the mud and mire of human existence, a vision of Christ who comes to everyday to give life and hope." What do you think he is saying in this statement and do you agree with him?
  
10. Having faith in God is primarily focused on trust and not proof. Explain what you think the difference is between these two efforts.