

## **John 8:12 – “I am the light of the world”**

Who, really, is Jesus? It seems there is almost a different Jesus in every church! But if we study the gospel of John, Jesus shows us himself. He reveals who he really is. Last week we studied his words, “I am the bread of life”. This week we study his words, “I am the light of the world.”

### **Why do we need light? (Without him, we are walking in darkness)**

Jesus says that without him, we are walking in darkness (v12). What does he mean? Spiritual darkness, of course. In the dark, we can easily walk round in circles, and walk into walls and other objects. Spiritually, people are born in darkness and continue in it. There are so many gods: people even worship trees, their ancestors, animals and the Sun! People love so many things instead of God: friends, football, TV, money, fashion. There is so much sin in the world – though none of it ever helped to do us good! This is all proof that the world is in spiritual darkness. Jesus is telling us that we are lost and far from God. We cannot find our own way back. People try to get back – they try sacrifices, doing good works, reading the Bible, getting baptised; but these are not the way. Jesus himself is the way.

### **Why is Jesus the light? (Because he comes from the Father)**

Jesus tells us that he himself is the light. He does not *show* us the light, but he *is* the light. He himself came from the Father (v14, 16, 18, 28, 29). He is the eternal Son of God. Everything he did perfectly pleased the Father (v29). In fact, he is just like the Father; if we know Jesus, we know the Father (v19) because he perfectly reveals him to us. Jesus is the one who gives life (v12). He shows us the spiritual truths of the gospel. He shines light into our dark hearts, showing us our sin and our need to repent. He gives us the power to come to him. He alone is the light – the one light, for the whole world. There is no other!

### **How do we come into the light? (We trust in him alone and follow him)**

Jesus says that we must “follow” him (v12). What does this mean? It means first that we must believe the truth about him. We must believe that he is the Son of God from heaven. Then, we must turn from darkness – i.e. repent of our sins. This means to hate them and reject them. Then, we must trust in Jesus alone as our Saviour (v28). In verse 28 Jesus speaks about being “lifted up”. This meant his death on the cross. He died to pay the price for his people's sins. Now that sin is punished, those who trust in him can go free! He promises that if we rely on him alone, he will take us to heaven, giving us eternal life. Have you come into this light?