

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word



Week of Sunday September 14, 2025

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**Living out our God-given calling as
we follow Jesus and make
disciples every day.**

Introduction

In a world filled with darkness, John 1:5 reminds us of the unwavering power of light and its ability to overcome. As we grapple with the reality of the darkness present in our world, this passage invites us to reflect on how we, as followers of Christ, can bring light into the darkness around us. How do we respond to hatred, division, and injustice in ways that honor Jesus' teachings? I want to encourage us to consider our role in confronting evil with truth, love, and unity, by allowing God's light to shine through us.

Disciple Measure

Spirit-led Follower: What has your attention, thoughts, and energy right now?

This image shows a full page of dot grid paper. The dots are arranged in a precise, repeating pattern across the entire surface, forming a light gray guide for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

4. How does Jesus's teaching in this passage challenge traditional views of justice and retaliation, and what does it reveal about the character of God's kingdom?
5. What does the statement "the darkness did not overcome it" in John 1:5 imply about the ultimate victory of light over darkness, and how can this assurance impact a believer's faith and courage in times of trial?

Notes:

Discuss the following questions...

- ## RESPOND

Force for Good: In what ways can you embody the light of Christ in your daily life to bring hope and truth into areas of spiritual and moral darkness?

Prayer:

Pray for courage to stand firm in faith, wisdom to navigate difficult conversations, and love to overcome hatred and division in our communities and nation.

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Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

John 1:5-11

What does this passage tell us about who Jesus is and what He brings to the world?

Guide your child to understand that Jesus is called the Light of the World and that light can show us the way when it's dark. For younger kids, discuss how Jesus can help us make good choices. For older kids, explore how Jesus' teachings can guide them in complex situations.

How do you think people feel when they are in a dark place and suddenly see a light? How can Jesus be like that light for us?

Help younger children think about how light makes them feel safe or happy. Encourage older kids to connect the idea of light to hope and understanding in tough situations. Discuss how knowing Jesus can help us feel secure and hopeful.

What are some ways we can share Jesus' light with our friends and family?

With younger children, talk about simple acts of kindness or saying something nice can be like sharing light. For older children, discuss more complex ways like standing up for what's right and spreading love and truth even when it's hard.

NT 260

WEEK: 38

- John 5
- John 6
- John 7
- John 8
- John 9

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 6:33-34

Resources

Resources to Listen to

BEMA Discipleship Podcast: John — Water, Spirit, Darkness, Light



Marty Solomon takes a look at [John 3](#) and Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus.
(68 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - The Book of John



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the book of [John](#).
(20 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.



longhollow.com/lifegroups



D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



longhollow.com/dgroups

Commentary

Notes:

What's Going On?

The primary passage discussed in the sermon comes from the opening chapter of the Gospel of John, specifically John 1:5-11. This part of the Bible sets the stage for John's unique telling of Jesus' story. Unlike the other gospels, John doesn't start with Jesus' birth or his genealogy. Instead, he starts with these grand themes of light and darkness, which are central throughout his gospel. In this passage, John paints a picture of Jesus as the "true light" that brings understanding and hope into a world filled with darkness and confusion.

The "light" in this context symbolizes God's truth and goodness, while the "darkness" stands for the sin and evil that exist in the world. John uses this imagery to emphasize how Jesus came into the world to shine a light that darkness cannot overcome. The contrast between accepting and rejecting this light is also a key theme, as it highlights how some people embrace Jesus while others do not recognize or accept Him. This sets the stage for everything that follows in John's narrative, illustrating both the hope Jesus brings and the conflicts that arise from His presence.

Biblical Timeline



Notes:

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Additionally, the Roman Empire posed challenges for early Christians, as the spread of Christianity threatened traditional Roman practices. In this context, portraying Jesus as the light overcoming darkness wasn't just metaphorical; it was a radical statement of hope and resilience for a community striving to remain faithful amidst pressures and persecution. This background helps us appreciate the depth and courage behind John's words, urging believers to hold onto the light of Christ amid adversity.



Sermon Notes

John 1:5-11 CSB

That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. , He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH