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# Bible Study

## Lesson 5

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### *The book of John*



### *Jesus, the Light of Life*

Have you ever gone into a room and turned on darkness? No. It is impossible to turn on darkness. When we go into a room we usually turn on light. Darkness is always around when the light is gone. When light is around, darkness must leave.

Jesus is the Light of life. When Jesus is gone from a person, only sin and evil are around. But when Jesus is within a person, life and happiness are there, because Jesus is the Light of life.

This is the message that Jesus wanted the Jews in Jerusalem to understand. He explained it in several ways, but they still would not believe. In this lesson we will see the different ways that Jesus showed himself to be the Light of life.

This study begins when Jesus went to Jerusalem for a great feast. Many people were in Jerusalem for the feast. There are some important lessons for each of us to learn from what Jesus did and said at this feast.

Search the Scriptures: John 7:1-53; 8:1-59; 9:1-41. When we walk (live) in the Light (Jesus), He helps us to witness and work for Him.

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# Interpretation

## I. SENT BY GOD

**John 7:16, 17. Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.**

### A. God's Time

The brothers of Jesus did not believe Him. Yet, they told Him to go to Jerusalem. They wanted Him to go where the most people were and show off His great power. They thought This was the right way to get people to follow Him. Jesus refused to show himself in this way. It was not yet God's time for Jesus to be in front of all the people in Jerusalem.

There was a great feast in Jerusalem at this time. Many people came to celebrate. Jesus' brothers wanted Him to walk into Jerusalem and do many miracles and become famous. Jesus went to the feast, but He did not try to get attention. He went secretly.

### B. God's Teaching

At the feast the people were looking for Jesus. Some people argued about His ways of teaching and His influence. Then Jesus appeared at the great feast. His teaching showed that He knew much about the **Scriptures**. The people wondered where He got such great knowledge. Jesus had not graduated from any of their schools.

Jesus told the people that He received His knowledge from God. Read John 7:16, 17. Jesus told them that if they truly followed God's will, they would know if His teaching was from God or not. Jesus came only to do the will of His Father. He wanted no glory or praise for Himself.

Many of the Jews acted very religious. Many of them read the Scriptures. But they ignored the parts about Christ. They only remembered the parts that made them look good.

Jesus was not afraid to teach the people truth. His boldness made some of the people think that maybe Jesus really was the true Messiah (the Christ). But would come to earth in some mysterious (unknown) way. They said that Jesus could not be this Christ, because He grew up in Galilee. They refused to believe.

On one of the last days of the feast a **priest** poured out water from the golden pitcher. This was a symbol of the time when Moses struck a rock in the desert and God made water come out of it. Read Numbers 20:11. Jesus called the people to come to Him and be satisfied with better water than Moses had from the rock. Read I Corinthians 10-:4.

This made the Jewish leaders angry. The Jews said that they "knew" the Law of Scriptures and that Jesus was false. The Jews wanted to kill Jesus without a trial. (This was against the Law.) The Jews claimed to know the Law, but they did not live up to what it said.

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## II. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**John 8:12. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

### A. Life-giving Light

The Jews honored the memory of the pillar of fire that led the Israelites through the desert (wilderness) many years before. This was the light that had guided them through the dangers of the night. God had given them this light to lead them. Now in John 8 Jesus shows himself to be a better Light than the pillar of fire in the wilderness. Jesus showed the Jews that, if they would believe on Him, He would bring light to their hearts. This Light would be better than any other. Jesus is the Light of life!

The pillar of fire in the Old Testament led the Jews through the desert nights. It led them toward the **Promised Land**. This land was a beautiful place where there was much food and good living. Jesus was saying to the Jews in the New Testament that He, the Light of life, would lead them to eternal life with God. If only they would follow. This eternal life would be in heaven. This is why Jesus declared that He was a better Light than any other, because He is *the* Light.

If we follow Jesus, He will lead us through this life, to eternal life with Him. Praise His name!

### B. Walking in the Light

In the last half of John 8, Jesus taught the Jews a lesson we all should learn. It is a lesson of following the true Light.

Jesus told them that it takes more than pretending (acting) to really follow Him. Jesus showed them that they must do more than just admire (like) His teachings. They must learn to live by His teachings. They must learn to walk in His teachings. Only then would they really know the truth of God that would set them free from all their false ideas and sins.

It is the same with us today. We must do more than just “like” church or Sunday school. We must do more than think that the Bible is a good Book. We must follow Jesus closely. We must study His Word and live by it. We must know His ways and obey His will. Only then will we really know the truth of God that will set us free from false ideas and sins.

The Jews were insulted that Jesus would tell them they needed to be set free from false ideas and sins. They were proud to be **God’s “chosen” people** and did not need to be set free from anything.



## Word Power

1. **SCRIPTURES**—Holy writings that were kept in the synagogues. These writings were from the Old Testament prophets.
2. **PRIEST**—A religious leader of the Jews who was also the keeper of the synagogues. These priests were different from modern-day priests. These men were Jews. They led people in reading from the Scriptures.
3. **PROMISED LAND**—When the Jews left Egypt (in the Old Testament), God promised that He would lead them to a beautiful land that they could have for their own. This land was called Canaan. The Jews have lived there since that time.
4. **GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE**—Read Exodus 6:7. God Chose the Jews to be His people. God delivered the Jews from Egypt and led them to the Promised Land. God took care of them.  
The New Testament Jews thought they were special and sinless in front of God because they were “chosen.” But really in their hearts they were far from God.
5. **FOREFATHER**—A person who lived many years before. Abraham lived many years before. He was respected by the Jewish religious leaders.

Jesus explained that their sins bound them like chains. They were not slaves to other men, but they were slaves to the devil. Only Jesus could free a person from that kind of bondage. Only Jesus can set you free from your sins. Read Romans 6:17-19.

### C. Eternal Light

The Jews honored and worshiped the memory of Abraham. Abraham was a great **forefather** of the Jews, and they held him high in their thinking. The Jews felt that they were children of Abraham and they did not need Jesus. Then Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am.” In other words, Jesus was saying that before Abraham lived. He was alive with God forever. This meant that Jesus is God’s son. He has always been alive. The Jews became very angry and cursed Jesus. They took stones and began to throw them at Jesus. They tried to kill Him.

The reason the Jews became so angry was because Jesus showed them they really were sinners. The Jews did not want to admit they were sinners.

## III. THE GIVER OF LIGHT

**John 9:1-4.** And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest (shown) in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

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**John 9:24, 25.** Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man (Jesus) is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or not, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas (once) I was blind, now I see.

**John 9:35-38.** Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

### A. Blind Man Healed

When Jesus met this blind man, He used him to show how He brings light to the world. This man had been born blind. People who followed Jesus asked Him why the man was born blind. Is it because of his sin? Is it because his parents have sinned? Instead of loving the blind man, people asked questions—why, why?

Jesus told them that this man was blind so that God could show His glory to them by healing him.

### B. Symbol of the Light

Healing the blind man was a picture of what Jesus could do for men spiritually if they would believe.

Without Jesus (the Light) our lives are dark with sin. We cannot understand much about God without the light. Jesus wanted the world to know that whoever would believe His Word would receive spiritual sight just as the blind man received his natural sight.



??THINK??

Hidden Word Puzzle

On the next page there is a list of 32 key words from the lesson. Can you find these words hidden in the puzzle? Some words read up or down, backwards or forward. Some words are also at an angle. But every word in the puzzle is connected to another word by at least one letter. If you find one word you can find them all . . . or can you?



SCRIPTURES  
 JEWS  
 PRIEST  
 WORLD  
 FOREVER  
 ABRAHAM  
 FOREFATHER  
 FEAST  
 CHRIST  
 WITNESS  
 MESSIAH

SYMBOL  
 DELIVER  
 BELIEVE  
 SINNER  
 LIFE  
 SLAVE  
 FIRE  
 LIGHT  
 DARKNESS  
 DOCTRINE  
 JERUSALEM

BLIND  
 HEALED  
 SIGHT  
 GOD  
 PROPHETS  
 GALILEE  
 HEART  
 ISRAELITES  
 MIRACLES  
 TRIAL

For correct answers

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