



# Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: John 8:12-30*

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12 Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."

13 So the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying about yourself. Your testimony is not valid."

14 "Even if I testify about myself," Jesus replied, "my testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I'm going. But you don't know where I come from or where I'm going. 15 You judge by human standards. I judge no one. 16 And if I do judge, my judgment is true, because it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17 Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. 18 I am the one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me."

19 Then they asked him, "Where is your Father?"

"You know neither me nor my Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew me, you would also know my Father." 20 He spoke these words by the treasury, while teaching in the temple. But no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

21 Then he said to them again, "I'm going away; you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I'm going, you cannot come."

22 So the Jews said again, "He won't kill himself, will he, since he says, 'Where I'm going, you cannot come'?"

23 "You are from below," he told them, "I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins."

25 "Who are you?" they questioned.

"Exactly what I've been telling you from the very beginning," Jesus told them. 26 "I have many things to say and to judge about you, but the one who sent me is true, and what I have heard from him—

these things I tell the world.”

27 They did not know he was speaking to them about the Father. 28 So Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own. But just as the Father taught me, I say these things. 29 The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.”

30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him

Sermon Summary:

Much of the gospel of John involves conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. They were bothered that Jesus healed especially on the Sabbath. But what especially angered them was his declaration that God was his father. The Jewish leaders understood this to mean that Jesus considered himself equal with God. It was for this reason that they wanted to kill him. The verses above have a tone of a courtroom scene. The Jewish leaders accuse Jesus of various things; Jesus responds to their accusations; and eventually Jesus becomes not only the accused but the judge and passes judgment on his accusers.

Verse 12 begins the dialogue with Jesus making a declaration that he is the light of the world and that those who follow him will not walk in darkness but have the light of life. This word was not only for them but for us as well. What does it mean to really follow Jesus? What would our life look like if we followed Christ as the light of life?

Discussion:

1. What are some of the words that make this dialogue seem like a court case?
2. What are the accusations against Jesus?
3. Does Jesus give a good answer to the requirement of two witnesses?
4. What are the verses where Jesus turns from being the accused to the judge?
5. What are the judgments that Jesus gives?
6. Read John 8:12. Share some experience where you experienced the light of life when you followed Jesus?

End with Prayer:

- Pray for each other to have a stronger desire to follow Jesus as the light of life.