



It is noteworthy that Jesus spoke John 8:12 in the Woman's Court. The Women's Court was a large enclosed courtyard on the eastern side of the Temple proper. Only Israelites, both men and women, could enter it and Gentiles were prohibited. On the western side of this court were fifteen steps leading up to the doors of the Nicanor Gate that led into the Court of Israelites that only men could enter. Beyond that was the Temple proper with its outer courtyard that only priests could enter. So, the Woman's Court was the place where all Jews could gather, both men and women. Consequently, much activity happened in this courtyard. During Sukkot the Levites assembled on the fifteen steps to play their instruments and sing Psalms as the men danced in the courtyard waving their lulavs and etrogs in worship of Yahweh. The women watched from the balconies above the courtyard. Four tall large candelabra were set up in the courtyard to illuminate the festivities during the nights of Sukkot. These brought the light of the menorah that stood inside the Holy Place out into the world. It was the perfect setting, therefore, for Jesus to allude to himself as the light of the world. This is the second "I am" saying in the Gospel. It parallels the Prologue where John wrote of Jesus, saying, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being is life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:1-5) From the Jewish perspective, the light that shines into the world is the light of the Torah, symbolized by the menorah. King David spoke of such illumination by the Torah when he exclaimed, "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

*Excerpt from "The Gospel of John: A Commentary Noting Its Jewish Context" by Daniel Kreller*

**Memory Verse #42:** John 8:12 "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world; the one who follows Me will not \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, but will have the Light of life."

**In His Dust:** Talmidim \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. 1 John 1:6 "If we say we have \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, yet \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, we \_\_\_\_\_." See also James 1:22.

## Lesson notes & questions:

### Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson's Scripture to my discipleship?



## **APPLY!**

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s Memory and In His Dust verses; discuss what they mean to you.
- **The people’s amazement & the leadership’s scoffing - John 7:40-52**
  - Why should we not be surprised when the Gospel brings division?
- **The woman taken in adultery - John 7:53-8:11**
  - Does Jesus ignore the woman’s sin?
  - Have you ever felt shame and disgrace over your sins? How is this passage a message of hope? How can you rest in Jesus' forgiveness?
- **The Light of the World - John 8:12 (also read Gen 1:3-5, Ps 27:1 and Ps 119:105)**
  - How do these verses point to Jesus as God rather than just as a messenger or prophet from God?
  - How do Jesus’ claims of Himself as Bread, water, and Light point back to the Exodus? How can you leave a life of slavery by submission to Jesus?
  - What does it mean that Jesus calls Himself the light of the world, and He also calls His disciples the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16)?
- **His testimony - John 8:13-18**
  - What does Jesus mean by, “I am not judging anyone”?
  - List all the reasons you can believe Jesus is trustworthy.
- **His Father - John 8:19-30**
  - Would others say your life is marked by self-sacrifice?
  - How does the Christian worldview differ from the world’s in its understanding of self-sacrifice?
  - Who is the ultimate authority in your life? Do your deeds match your words? If not, what is keeping you from submitting fully to Him?
- **What do you want to remember and apply from this lesson?**
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs.**
  - Seek His will for our church, our community, and our society.
  - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life.