



Mustard Seed Lesson for January 28, 2007
Released on January 24, 2007

"Jesus: The Light of the World"

Printed Text: John 8:12–20; 12:44–46.

GOLDEN TEXT "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

John 8:12–20

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.

13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

John 12:44–46

44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Jesus made many wonderful claims about Himself. One of these is that He is the Light of the world. As light, His Word illuminates our darkness, reveals our sin, and shows us the way to live. As the Light of the world, He claimed a kind of universality. He is the Light for everyone. Some accept His light, while others refuse it and continue to stumble in their darkness. There is no other light, no one else who can show us the way to God.

If we try to walk on a dark path, we may stumble or even fall into a hole and get hurt. Our lives are darkness without Jesus, for what we feel or think is right is not always what God approves. When we follow our own ways, we are bound to get hurt. We can avoid this pain by inviting Jesus, the Light of the world, into our lives and following the light He gives us in His Word.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that Jesus shows us how to live.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus taught that He is the Light of the world.
2. Jesus shows us what is right and good.
3. Jesus helps children make right choices.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For **Beginning the Lesson**, bring a blindfold.

For **Telling How to Live**, bring a bright flashlight.

For **Helping to Remember**, bring a piece of black construction paper, a half sheet of bright yellow construction paper, glue, and a sticker or picture of Jesus for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

What would it be like if there were no light in this room? (Teacher, let the students give some ideas.) Would you like to find out? (Teacher, ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded. Ask the other students to move to a new place. Then spin the blindfolded student and let him try to find the others.)

It is pretty hard when everything looks dark. You cannot see where you are going. You may be going in the wrong direction, but it is hard to tell for sure.

Our lesson today talks about light. Let us listen carefully.

TELLING THE LESSON

Jesus said that He is the Light of the world. He did not say He is a light of the world, as if there were several lights and He was just one of them. He said He is *the* Light of the world. He is the one and the only Light.

When we believe in Him, it is sort of like taking the blindfold off our eyes. Suddenly we can see clearly what God wants us to do. As we read His Word and learn what He teaches, we can see the way we should be living.

Jesus did not say He was the Light for a few people or for one group of people. He is the Light for the whole world—for everyone. He will give light to anyone—anywhere, anytime—who believes in Him and follows His ways.

Some people did not believe what Jesus said. They did not like His teaching. They thought they already knew about God, and they did not like Jesus telling them anything. They said God had not given Him these teachings. They thought Jesus had just made up these ideas on His own.

Jesus said He had not made up these ideas. His Father who sent Him had given Him these teachings. His Father who sent Him was His witness that everything He said was true.

The problem was that some people did not understand that Jesus is God's own Son. They were very angry with Him for teaching that He is God's Son, but they could not lay a hand on Him until God's time for Him to die had come.

Jesus kept preaching, teaching, and doing good. Later on, He said that everyone who believed in Him believed also in the One who sent Him. So when someone believes in Jesus, that person is also believing in God, His Father.

Again, Jesus said He had come as a light into the world so that we would not need to walk in darkness. When we follow Jesus' teachings, we can see the way we should live. We can know what pleases God.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Jesus brings light into our lives when we follow His Word. (Teacher, turn on the flashlight, illuminating some dark corner if possible.) We cannot follow His Word unless we are listening to what it says. Do you read or listen to God's Word often? (Teacher, open your Bible in front of you on your lap or the table.) As you read or listen, do you pay close attention to what God's Word says? Do you do your best to obey all that you understand? As you do, Jesus will bring light into your life.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Add "Light of the World" to the poster as you did during previous lessons. Give the students a piece of black construction paper to remind them of the darkness we all are in before we believe in Jesus as our Saviour. Give them a half sheet of yellow construction paper to represent the light Jesus brings into our lives. They can glue the yellow sheet over one side of the black sheet and glue a sticker or picture of Jesus in the middle. He is the one who makes the difference between darkness and light in our lives.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Jesus said that He gives light to everyone in the world. Those who follow Him, or obey His teachings, will know what is right to do. They will know how they should live. They will know what is wrong. They will be able to make right choices, for Jesus will help them see clearly what the right choices are.

Cross Word Puzzle Activity:

Jesus: The Light of the World

W H P U W Y I B T D N D X X H
D A H R S R B Y C N A G I F E
S G A X Y B M P B R E L K M K
L C R I T F T Q K F V S L E Y
W J I A R C R N K W C E A P P
D K S B A E E U E R J M W P N
T F E T I S H X M E T U J B I
U L E F S D B T P Z R O D F Z
V I S W O N K E A N U D W G V
W O R L D J P S R F E A T L E
S S E N T I W U E J D H I E Y
J O G I S E T S Y R G F Z K Z
U H C A X E Q E O I E E X X L
S V W U C T D J L A U U W M O
G L H X F W J V F U V V G R M

DARKNESS
JUDGE
LIGHT
TRUE
WORLD

FATHER
KNOW
PHARISEES
WALK

JESUS
LIFE
SENT
WITNESS

13 of 13 words were placed into the puzzle.

Jesus: The Light of the World Solution

+ + P + + + + + T + + D + + +
+ + H + + + + + N A + + + +
+ + A + + + + + R E + K + +
+ + R + + + + + K + + S L + +
+ + I + R + + N + + + + A + +
+ + S + + E E + + + J + W + +
+ + E + + S H + + + T U + + +
+ + E + S + + T + + R + D + +
+ + S W O N K + A + U + + G +
W O R L D + + S + F E + T L E
S S E N T I W U + + + H I + +
+ + + + + + S + + G F + + +
+ + + + + + E + I E + + + +
+ + + + + + J L + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

DARKNESS (12, 1, SW)

FATHER (10, 10, NW)

JESUS (8, 14, N)

JUDGE (11, 6, SE)

KNOW (7, 9, W)

LIFE (14, 10, SW)

LIGHT (9, 14, NE)

PHARISEES (3, 1, S)

SENT (12, 4, NW)

TRUE (11, 7, S)

WALK (13, 6, N)

WITNESS (7, 11, W)

WORLD (1, 10, E)

Lesson Summarized by:

Willie Ferrell willie@jesusisall.com