

# York St Small Groups

## Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Jesus - The Gospel of John: Victory over the Darkness

*John 20:1-9*



These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and also to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.



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## **GETTING STARTED**

Read over this summary of Sunday's message:

The author of John uses the contrast between light and darkness to represent life without God (a life of sin, death and darkness) and life with God (a life of grace, truth and light). As we look to scripture, we see that Jesus not only brings light into the darkness but He himself is the light, and through His death and resurrection He is victorious over the darkness. As we come to experience and believe in Jesus we also come into His light. In His light nothing is hidden - our imperfections and our sins are exposed and while this is not something we should be afraid of, so often we are (John 3:19). As we turn to scripture and find out more of who Jesus is, we see that in His light a number of things happen;

1. In His light we are promised grace, mercy and forgiveness rather than condemnation (John 3:17).
2. In His light, we can see what is good in His eyes rather than what is good in our own eyes.
3. In His light we are transformed and become more like Him so much so that we begin to reflect His light to those around us (John 1:8).

**Q1.** Take a minute to reflect on last Sunday's topic. Briefly share your personal summary of the sermon, or a few personal thoughts and insights about the topic with the group.

## **INTO THE WORD**

**Q2.** Read John 3:19

Have you ever found yourself hiding because of something you did, and you didn't want to get caught or get in trouble for it?

**Q3.** Read John 20:1-9

This passage is important as it is here where we see that Jesus has risen from the grave and are able to understand and believe all that He has been saying throughout the gospel of John. Through His resurrection, Jesus overcame sin and death and it is through His resurrection that we have victory over the darkness.

Take a minute to put yourself in the position of Mary, Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved in this passage. Reflect on the situation they found themselves in. What thoughts, feelings, and questions might this have stirred up in them? Share and discuss it with the group.

**Q4.** Read John 8:12

Take a minute to reflect on this verse. Share and discuss with the group the thoughts, feelings, or questions this passage stirs up in you. What does this mean to you personally?

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

**Q5.** Have you ever thought something seemed really good but when you brought it into the light it wasn't what it seemed?

If appropriate share with the group a past or present time in your life/faith journey or situation, where you thought something was really good but when you brought it into the light it wasn't what it seemed. Maybe you have had a relationship, friendship, job or thought that seemed good but when you took it to God in prayer or compared it to His Word was actually not good?

**Q6.** Read John 12:46

We no longer have to live in darkness because through Jesus' death and resurrection we are invited into a relationship with God. We are invited to walk with Him in truth and in light. As we walk with God, we become more like Him and come to reflect His light. Just like John, we are called to be witness to the light of Christ.

What are some ways you can reflect God's light to those around you this week?

### **Pray**

Spend some time praying together as a small group. Pray for those who still live in the darkness, those who do not yet have a relationship with God. Pray for those who find themselves in dark places, pray that God would come and meet them there, bringing with Him His light. Pray for each other, that as you live your life this week you can draw close to God, live in His light and reflect His light to those around you.