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*Don't just hear the Word—live it! Read the focus passage, then dig into the guide independently or with a small group.*

**SERIES:** I'm Him

**MESSAGE TITLE:** When the Lights Go Out

**MESSAGE OVERVIEW:** It's easy to lose our way while walking in darkness. And the remedies and comforts we seek are usually not what we need. Thankfully, Jesus declares amidst the fading lights in our lives that He is the light of the world. He gives life, reveals beauty, and offers hope. He promises that those who choose to follow Him will never walk in darkness.

**FOCUS PASSAGE:** John 8:12-59

**BREAKING IT DOWN:**

1. The hazards and risks of literally walking through darkness are obvious—disorientation, injuries, breaking or losing things, and disrupting others. Is walking in spiritual darkness different? What are the dangers?
2. The Feast of Tabernacles (which many scholars agree fell just before the focus passage chronologically) was a time to reflect on God's past guidance and provision. The people erected giant lanterns, symbolic of the pillar of fire that had guided the Israelites at night in their exodus from Egypt. And, as the festival ended and the lanterns came down, Jesus declared "I am the light of the world." The temporary fixtures used to celebrate every year were nothing compared to the light of God. What powerless things do we elevate?
3. Jesus illuminates beauty and adds clarity; He is necessary for us to find our way. Without Him, our view will always be dark and distorted. Stress, fear, worry—they cloud our ability to reason and make wise choices. Was there a time when it was hard for you to see or think clearly? Did you seek the light of Jesus? What happened?
4. There's an interesting parallel found in nature: plants bend toward the sun. They need light in order to grow and thrive. People bend towards all sorts of things for comfort or supposed solutions, but not all are beneficial. What do you bend toward? Is it helpful?
5. It's possible to be religious and not know God; the Pharisees were a perfect example of this. Religion feeds guilt and shame, while Jesus dishes love and grace. Religion is about routine and duty, versus real relationship with our Creator. Is it better to choose temporary comfort that is empty? Or follow Jesus, who fills and gives us real peace?

**WAYS TO LIVE THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK:**

**Don't serve the wrong system. Seek the light, and keep bending toward Him.**

Let Jesus be your source of hope and direction. Follow Him one step at a time, and He promises you will never walk in darkness. You will have the light of life.

