



# All Christians' Fellowship International

## INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

**TOPIC:** Jesus, the Light of the World

**TEXT:** John 8:12-59

**Instructions** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** Jesus never spoke in public without creating controversy. In fact, he was constantly in trouble! Rather than retreating behind the safety of a pulpit, Jesus spoke in settings where people were bold enough to talk back. In this portion of John's story, Jesus makes a series of claims about himself. Each claim is met by a challenge from his enemies. Each challenge is then answered, and the answer leads to the next claim. Throughout this interchange, Jesus shows us how to speak the truth in the face of hostility. He also reveals some amazing things about himself.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever tried to talk about Christ with a family member or co-worker who was hostile to your message? How did you feel at the time? - How did you try to penetrate that person's spiritual barriers?
2. Read John 8:12-30. Jesus' first claim is: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." What does it mean to walk in darkness (v. 12)? - How has following Jesus brought light into your life?
3. The Pharisees challenge the validity of Jesus' claim (v. 13; see Deut 19:15). How does Jesus answer their challenge (v. 14-18)?
4. Jesus' reference to his Father leads to his second claim-that he came from God. How does this claim heighten the tension between Jesus and the Jews (v. 19-30)?
5. It seems as if Jesus is deliberately provoking the Jews by what he says. Why do you think he is being so blunt?
6. Read John 8:31-59. Jesus makes another startling claim in verses 31-32: "If you hold to my teaching... then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Why does holding to Jesus' teaching lead to true knowledge and freedom?
7. Those who had believed interrupted to say that they were already free. What analysis does Jesus give of their "freedom" (v. 34-36)?

8. Jesus' opponents also claim to have both Abraham and God as their father. According to Jesus, how does their conduct contradict their claim (v. 39-47)?
9. Why is our conduct the truest test of our beliefs?
10. What is it about Jesus' statements that make his enemies want to stone him (v. 48-59)?
11. Summarize the various attacks voiced against Jesus in this chapter and explain how Jesus' example will help you face spiritually hostile people.
12. In what ways does your lifestyle validate (or invalidate) your claim to be a follower of Christ?