

Children of God**Introduction**

Although the majority of English Bibles contain John 7vs53-8vs11, the manuscript evidence and the actual flow of the narrative from John 7vs52 to John 8vs12, suggest that these verses were not part of the original of John's gospel. Jesus' words in 8vs12ff are thus a response to the hostility Pharisees and the confusion of the crowd described in chapter 7. The declaration by Jesus that He is *the light of the world* (a claim substantiated by the miracle in chapter 9) and the discussion that follows, link back to John's words in chapter 1vs4-13. In particular the chapter highlights *who* the true children of God are – they are those who have been set free by the Son and who thus follow Him.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the section means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 8vs12-59. Answer the following questions:

1. Of what can those who follow Jesus be assured? Why? (John 8vs12)

2. What challenge do the Pharisees make against Jesus' claim? What answer does Jesus give? (John 8vs13-20)

3. What is the fundamental problem that Jesus' original hearers (and we, ourselves) face? (John 8vs21-24, 8vs34-37)

4. According to John 8vs12-53, how did this problem effect:
 - a. Their understanding?

 - b. Their attitude to Jesus?

 - c. Their relationship to God and His people

 - d. Their destiny?

5. What hope does Jesus offer?

Think it Through

1. What right did Jesus have to make the claims that He makes?