king'schapel
Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 13, 2016

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the Son of Man who, in love, came to earth to expel the darkness of sin present in every human heart by sacrificially dying on the cross in our place.

This Week's Text: John 12:34-50

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What is the context of this week's text? To whom is Jesus speaking? What does it mean that Jesus' hour has come?
- Why was the crowd confused about Jesus' statement that the Son of Man must die? Discuss the significance of the title "Son of Man" to the people of Israel. Reference 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Daniel 7:13-14.
- How does Jesus respond to their questions? What does Jesus mean to communicate by the light and darkness metaphor? Discuss how Jesus is the light of the world. Reference John 1:4-5, John 3:19, John 8:12, Psalm 27:1.
- Read verses 37-43. Despite the many signs and miracles that Jesus performed, why did many refuse to believe that Jesus is the Son of Man? Use the following talking points to discuss what the Bible teaches about the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man:
  - *God's sovereignty is never pitted against human responsibility.* Reference Acts 2:23, 4:27.
  - *God's judicial hardening is not the capricious [fickle] manipulation of an arbitrary Sovereign toward morally neutral or good people, but rather His holy condemnation of guilty people who are condemned to the judgement that they themselves have chosen.* Reference Romans 1:18-25.
  - *God's sovereignty is cause for great hope.* Reference John 11:25-26.
- Read verses 44-50. What is Jesus' final, loving appeal to the crowd? What does he teach us about himself, his mission, the consequence of unbelief, and the new manner of life to those who trust in him?

- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel to those in your sphere of influence?