

Overcoming the Darkness #4
“The Light of God’s People”

INTRODUCTION

When we think of what it looks like to be a Christian, many images and examples can come to mind, both good and bad. But we can boil it down to a few key ideas as to what a true Christ-follower should look like. It starts by acknowledging who God is, then understanding that He made us to find salvation in Him, then being transformed as we follow Him, then sharing the light of His life within us. Let’s look more closely at these points now.

Ice Breaker (Optional): What is it about the dark that causes you to be afraid (perhaps a particular time or situation in the past)?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

I. Salvation - The Spark of Spiritual Life

Read John 8:12, John 10:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-5

Q1. These verses call out the great contrast between life with God and life without God. What are some of the ways this contrast is described?

Q2. Given this contrast, what characteristic(s) of God do you think is most apparent in sending us a Savior? What is it about the manner in which God sent His son into the world that is personally meaningful to you?

Read John 3:14-21; Romans 5:5-9; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Q3. What do these verses say in answer to the question: Why did Christ give up his life on the cross?

II. Transformation – Changed by the Power of Grace

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 John 1:7, John 8:31-32

Q4. What is one characteristic of the follower of Christ described in each of these verses? Which do you think is the most difficult to acknowledge in your own life and why?

Q5. Truth and grace together act as fuel on the spark of new life in Christ to make a strong and fire of faith. Is there a truth that God wants you to accept today that you also need His grace to lead you to live-it-out?

III. Reflection – Sharing God’s Life with Others

Read 1 Peter 2:9; Luke 4:18-19; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Q6. This last passage refers to the ‘unveiled face’ of the believer doing what? Can you affirm someone in your group who has reflected the Lord’s glory?

Q7. If we are to be good reflectors, then (like a mirror) we need to be: 1) clean, and 2) focused. What do these two characteristics mean in a believers’ life? In your life?

WRAP-UP

Ever since sin entered the world, it has desperately needed the light of God’s presence, promise, power and people. We have been made new in Christ to be a part of God’s light to a desperate world. God is calling us to be His light shining on a hill that we would proclaim in word and deed His great love and offer of abundant and eternal life.

Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs:

Challenge: Prepare a three minute personal testimony that you can use to describe: 1) your life before Christ, 2) how you decided to follow Him, and 3) how your life is now different. Then share it!

Scripture Verses

For Questions 1 & 2

John 8:12 NIV - [12] When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:9-11 NIV - [9] I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. [10] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. [11] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

For Question 3

John 3:14-21 (read from your Bible)

Romans 5:5-9 NIV - [5] And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. [6] You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. [7] Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. [8] But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

1Corinthians 11:23-25 NIV - [23] For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For Questions 4 & 5

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV - [17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

1 John 1:7 NIV - [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

John 8:31-32 NIV - [31] To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [32] Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

For Questions 6 & 7

1 Peter 2:9; Luke 4:18-19; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

1Pe 2:9 NIV - [9] But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Luke 4:18-19 NIV - [18] "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, [19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV - [17] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. [18] And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Prayers (continued):
