

“Live as Light”

Shining Inside Out

INTRODUCTION

The Bible often uses the metaphor of light and darkness to illustrate truths about good and evil. Our key verse, Ephesians 5:8-14 is rich in such imagery. We will consider this passage and others to help us to understand what it means for us to live as lights in a dark world.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is your favorite thing to do on an evening when the power fails and you are left in total darkness?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Q1. Read 1 John 1:5; 1 Timothy 6:16a; John 8:12; Romans 13:12; John 1:5

God is identified as light in 1 John 1:5. How is the light described in 1 Timothy 6:16a; John 8:12, and Romans 13:12? John 1:5 says light shines in darkness and darkness cannot “*katalambanō*” it, which can be translated as overcome, apprehend, comprehend, perceive, or extinguish. What does this reveal about the power of light over darkness? What happens when light, or God, is absent from a situation?

We live in our New Identity from the Inside Out

Q2. Read Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 Peter 2:9; Colossians 3:10

When you lived without God in your life, you were in darkness. But in Ephesians 5:8 Paul calls believers light! The very light of God shines through us. What are some of the choices you made when you first became a Christian in order to leave behind darkness and embrace the light? With God living in and thorough us, our lives can produce “the fruit of light” (Ephesians 5:9). What does that fruit include? What are some decisions you must continue to make daily in order to produce that fruit?

We live Cautiously in the world

Q3. Read Ephesians 5:11; Luke 8:17; 2 Corinthians 6:14

These verses warn us about associating with darkness. We are told to have nothing to do with deeds of darkness (Ephesians 5:11), and not to be yoked together with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14). What are some ways a Christian might be tempted to participate in deeds of darkness? How might believers yoke themselves together with unbelievers?

Q4. Read Ephesians 5:12-13; Ephesians 5:3

We are instructed to expose deeds of darkness and that it is shameful to mention what is done in secret. How can you expose deeds of darkness apart from talking (complaining/gossiping) about it? What are the pitfalls of talking about deeds of darkness?

We live as Light so others can Shine

Q5. Read Ephesians 5:13-14; John 3:20; Hebrews 4:13

Ephesians 5:13-14 shows the power of the Lord’s light. No one is hidden from God’s sight (Hebrews 4:13). Anyone who is exposed to the light is impacted and can become light. Why do those who are in darkness avoid the light (John 3:20)? Is there anyone in your life that you want the light to impact? In what way would you like God to use you to shine light in that person’s life?

WRAP-UP

The light of the Lord is powerful and transforming. As children of the light we are called out of darkness and given a new identity. We need to make choices daily to live in that identity. But we must avoid deeds done in darkness, and not yoke ourselves together with unbelievers. As lights in a dark world we bring God’s light into the lives of others, and give them an opportunity to become lights as well.

Memory Verse

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Ephesian 5:8 NIV

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: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge

Ask God to illuminate any areas of your life that you need Him to transform by the power of His light.

Q1

1 John 1:5 ESV - 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 Timothy 6:16a ESV - 16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in *unapproachable light*, whom no one has ever seen or can see. ...

John 8:12 ESV - 12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have *the light of life*."

Romans 13:12 ESV - 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the *armor of light*.

John 1:5 ESV - 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Q2

Ephesian 5:8 (NIV) 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

1 Thessalonians 5:5 (NIV) 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness

Ephesians 5:9-10 ESV - 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Colossians 3:10 ESV - 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Q3

Ephesians 5:11-13 ESV - 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

2 Corinthians 6:14 ESV - 14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Luke 8:17 ESV - 17 For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

Q4

Ephesians 5:12-13 ESV -12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,

Ephesians 5:3 ESV - 3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

Q5

Ephesians 5:13-14 ESV - 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Hebrews 4:13 ESV - 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

John 3:20 ESV - 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Prayer requests con't _____

