

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

1. Introduce yourself to the ladies at your table and share your favorite ice cream flavor.
2. Think back on a specific time when you felt afraid in the dark. Explain what exactly you were afraid of.

What is it about darkness that tends to scare us?

How does light affect darkness and how does it relieve our fear?

3. In the Bible, light is a frequently used symbol for God. Read the following verses and share how God's light helps God's people.

Nehemiah 9:12

John 1:9

John 12:35-36

2 Corinthians 4:6

4. Read Jesus' words in John 8:12. How does Jesus describe himself?

Discuss what you think it means for Jesus to be the Light that shines in a dark world.

What does Jesus promise to those who follow him?

5. To better understand turning from darkness to light, read Jesus' instructions to Paul in Acts 26:15,17-18. From these verses, what things happen when people turn from darkness to light?

6. Read John 8:3-11 and watch how Jesus shines his Light in this encounter. According to Jewish law, adultery was punishable by death. As the scribes and Pharisees focus on one woman's sin, what does Jesus say?

What truth has Jesus illuminated to all the accusers?

With no accusers, how does Jesus interact with the woman?

What can you learn about the Light of the World that sees and illuminates all our sin yet doesn't condemn?

7. While talking to his sincere followers in Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus uses the same words, with one big difference! Read these verses and share who is the light of the world now.

What are we instructed to do in verse 16? What is the desired outcome?

8. Share with your group some good works that are visible in our world causing people to glorify God?

9. Consider some locations where you frequently spend time. What specific things could you do to shine Jesus' light in those places? Share some of these with each other.

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Biblical Themes of Light and Darkness

- God uses light as a symbol for His presence, purity and power. God is the _____ of light.
- Light makes things visible and makes it possible to see reality.
- God uses darkness as a symbol for sin, error, falsehood, judgment and life apart from God.
- Darkness causes things to be hidden, unseen and distorted.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 8:12

Jesus declares himself as one with God and as the long-awaited Messiah.

Jesus declares that the blessings of God are available to the entire world.

Jesus promises to move his followers out of the spiritual darkness brought on by sin and into a whole new way of life.

LIGHT ILLUMINATES

As Jesus shines the light we see the reality of our sin and separation from God. John 4:4-18

The light that reveals our sin also reveals God's mercy and grace. John 8:3-11

Spiritual illumination is a _____ process that allows us to see truth and reality.

Only through Jesus can we see spiritual realities.

LIGHT GUIDES

Jesus shines to guide and direct us to safety with God.

Only through Jesus can we move from darkness to light.

The only way is God's way and Jesus is the path.

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

MATTHEW 5:14-16

Jesus' light was not extinguished when he physically left the world.

Jesus _____ us to make his light visible all the time, wherever we are.

Jesus has promised to impart his life and his light into his followers.

LIVING AS LIGHT

We shine with visible good works, providing evidence that God transforms lives.

We shine with the absence of ungodly works, providing evidence that God transforms lives.

We shine for the purpose of _____ people to God.

LIVING IN LIGHT

Jesus continues to shine in your heart, illuminating the darkness to avoid. Be willing to see.

Jesus continues to shine guidance for your life through his Word. Be willing to read and obey.

WORTHY is The NAME | Light of the World

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1 JOHN 1:5 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.

JOHN 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

JOHN 4:17-18 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

JOHN 3:16-18a For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned.

PROVERBS 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

JOHN 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

EZEKIEL 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

GALATIANS 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation among whom you shine as lights in the world.

1 JOHN 1:6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

PSALM 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.