



LIVING LIGHT

(EPHESIANS 5:8-14)

Throughout the Bible, the imagery of light is used to describe the purity, the power, and the perfection of God. He is our “*light and salvation*” (Psalm 27:1). He is “*everlasting light ... our glory*” (Isaiah 60:19). Jesus is the “*true light*” and the “*light of the world*” (John 1:9; 8:12). Bottom line, Scripture teaches, “*This is the message, God is light, and there is no darkness in Him at all*” (1 John 1:5). Here’s the deal: When you surrender your life to the Lord Jesus as your God and Savior, He remakes you into one of God’s own *children of light* (Ephesians 5:8). Fantastic! Yet what does that actually mean? Honestly, the concept “*children of light*” sounds vague and “new age” sort of mystical to most folks. But God knew precisely what He meant when He called us His *children of light*. Specifically, Jesus transforms His followers into **LIVING LIGHT**. Ephesians 5:8-14 is going to show us exactly how that shapes who we are and how we live.

OUR REALITY

1. (v.8) Sin made you ...
2. (v.8) Jesus makes you ...

OUR GOD-GIVEN MINDSET

1. (2:3) I am not a ...
2. (5:1) But I am a ...
3. (5:8) And I am a ...

OUR LIFESTYLE OF LIGHT

1. (v.9) LIVING LIGHT produces ...
2. (v.9) LIVING LIGHT produces ...
3. (v.9) LIVING LIGHT produces ...
4. (v.10) LIVING LIGHT prioritizes ...
5. (v.11) LIVING LIGHT perceives ...
6. (vv.11-13) LIVING LIGHT portrays ...
7. (v.14) LIVING LIGHT proclaims ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John’s message. As you discuss the questions, don’t expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God’s Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.

1. Read Ephesians 5:8-14 aloud from two different versions. I’d suggest the NASB and the NLT. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your group discussion.
2. **OUR REALITY:** Verse 8 says we were *formerly in darkness*. What is this *darkness* all about? Why is the word *formerly* so important? Paul wrote that believers are *light in the Lord* and are God’s *child of light*. As such, Jesus has altered our “reality” (in other words, our identity, who we are in Christ) and made us into **LIVING LIGHT**. What are some very practical ways that we as Christians can be God’s *living light* to folks who are stumbling around in this world’s spiritual darkness? Who are some Christians that have modeled this *living light* approach to life for you recently?
3. **OUR MINDSET:** Read aloud Ephesians 2:3; 5:1; and 5:8. In these three verses, God outlines the mindset He wants us to constantly have playing in our heads. Specifically, we are *not children of wrath*, but we are *beloved children*, and we are *children of light*. Why is it so important that this mindset be your constant perspective? What happens to your walk with Jesus when this way of seeing yourself gets forgotten? How can we help each other keep this essential biblical mindset in place and operating in a healthy way?
4. **OUR LIFESTYLE:** From verses 9-14, Pastor John taught seven ways that being *living light* will show up in our lifestyle. Paul wrote that the first “fruit” (result) of being God’s *living light* is that we will be highly motivated to deliver God’s goodness into the lives of others. How do you think the Lord wants you to do this? Can you think of specific people He has been speaking to you about because He wants you to bring His goodness to them?
5. Another aspect of the living light lifestyle means that we will view each day as an opportunity to *try and learn what pleases the Lord* (v.10). Pastor John summarized this as living daily to bring a smile to God’s face. Have you ever thought about your daily purpose in this way? Why does this make good sense and how might this greatly change your outlook on life?