

Sermon Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Live Stream
April 5, 2020

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and small groups to use it. When we hear God's Word read and explained, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or small group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon using the Discussion Guide (see below). **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or small group.

Discussion Guide: The Real Jesus - Week 2

Discussion Starter 1: Ask your group if anyone would share a story of when they found themselves in the dark. Ask them to describe how they felt and how they found the light to see.

Discussion Starter 2: Pastor Sam spoke about how God is described as light in Creation (Genesis 1) and in Eternity with God (Revelation 22). "God is light (1 John 1:5)." This is true in two senses. God is actually and literally light. His glorious presence far outshines the sun. Yet, God's glorious light is also displayed in his perfect nature. He is always loving and just; holy and compassionate; and good and right. Based on 1 John 1:5-7, how are we supposed to live (walk) as the people of God?

Self-Evaluation: Similar to light, darkness can have a dual meaning. Darkness may refer to the literal dark of night or of our inability to see in a spiritual or moral sense. To live in darkness is to live separated from God. In John 8:12, Jesus said, "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**" To walk in darkness is to not really live at all in a spiritual sense. We need to have Jesus, the light of life, as the Lord of our Lives so we can truly live. Ask everyone in your group to consider whether they have experienced the light of Jesus? If there is any question about this, have them call out to Jesus and surrender their whole life to Him.

Going Deeper: Read John 3:19-20 and reread John 8:12. Pastor Sam reminded us that the way Jesus used "darkness" would make this verse mean that whoever follows Jesus "will never walk in wickedness, and ignorance of godly things." Jesus does not mean that Christians never sin or struggle, but what He does mean is that a Christian is never held captive by sin as a way of life. Is your life marked by sinful living or living God's way as described in God's Word? In Ephesians 5:8-14, Paul simply says, "Live as children of light!" He doesn't really give a strategy. He says to just do it. Talk with your group about what adjustments need to be made in your lives to live as children of light. Will you allow the presence of God to shine light into the dark and hidden places of your life?

Discussion Starter 3: Sam talked about the problem of Christians sleeping spiritually. Is it possible that we are not fully awake in a spiritual sense? Paul told the Ephesian Christians, "Awake! O Sleeper." How is God calling us to wake up? How is God calling our nation and world to wake up?

Doing the Word: God's people are not only to experience His light but are to reflect it to a world filled with darkness. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)." Jesus' light in us will cause us to shine bright. Talk with someone this week about how God brought you out of the darkness and into His light. Share it with someone in your home. Call a friend or neighbor or share it on social media. Let your words be accompanied with good works. Help someone out this week. Give sacrificially to someone this week. If you have experienced Jesus' light, Be the light!