God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Walk as Children of Light

Speaker: Julie Pedroza

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

  Jesus' parable of the wheat and weeds begins Julie's reflection. Jesus identifies the field as the world and the harvest as the end of the age. Final judgment belongs to him. Living among people with different beliefs calls for faithfulness and patience, not contempt or participation in wrongdoing.

- **1 John 1:5-10; key words from verse 5 (ESV)**

  "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

  God's holiness exposes sin rather than excusing it. Yet John also warns against claiming to be without sin. Walking in the light includes honest confession and reliance on Jesus' cleansing. We return to God in repentance, trusting his forgiveness as we grow in obedience.

- **Ephesians 5:6-14; key words from verse 8 (ESV)**

  "Walk as children of light"

  Paul calls believers to live out who they are in the Lord. Their lives should bear goodness, righteousness, and truth. Good intentions do not excuse sinful actions. We learn what pleases God, refuse to join in evil, and receive Christ's light with hope.

Discussion Questions

- Julie searched Scripture after hearing something troubling. How can we check a claim carefully before accepting it or challenging someone?
- How do confession and Christ's cleansing in 1 John keep us from both excusing sin and pretending we are perfect?
- Where might good intentions be hiding a choice that needs to change? What would goodness, righteousness, and truth look like there?
- How can we love people whose beliefs differ from ours while refusing to share in harmful behavior?
- How could asking someone to open the Bible with you lead to a humble conversation instead of an argument?

Reflection Challenge

This week, bring one unsettled belief or recurring choice into God's light. Read the passages above in context, pray honestly, and take one concrete step of obedience.

Ask yourself:

- Am I seeking what Scripture means, or trying to make it support what I already want?
- What do I need to confess instead of defend or hide?
- Who can help me understand this passage and follow through with love?

Try this:

- Read 1 John 1:5-10 slowly. Write what it says about God's character, our sin, and his forgiveness.
- Choose one change that reflects goodness, righteousness, or truth. Make the first step specific and achievable today.
- Ask a trusted believer to study the passage with you. Listen carefully, welcome correction, and pray for each other.

Remember

- God's character, not our intentions, sets the standard for what is good.
- Walking in the light includes confession and dependence on Jesus.
- We can love our neighbors without joining in sin.
- Read Scripture in context and approach correction with humility.
- A stumble calls us back to Christ, not into hiding or despair.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for bringing us into your light through Jesus. Show us where we are excusing sin or bending your Word to suit ourselves. Help us confess honestly and trust your forgiveness. Give us discernment to understand Scripture, courage to obey, and gentleness when we speak with others. When we stumble, draw us back to you. Let goodness, righteousness, and truth grow in our everyday choices.

In Jesus' name, Amen.