



Week 1 – LOST in the Dark

Today's passage: **John 2:23-3:21** (pew Bible pgs. 1512-1513)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
~ **Romans 15:13**

I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.
~ **Isaiah 42:16**

WHERE ARE YOU **LOST IN THE DARK?**

For Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion:

Have you ever been lost on a trip or in some other circumstance? What was that like? How did you find your way “back”?

Read John 2:23-3:21, 1 John 1:5-7, & the other scriptures on the other side of this guide.

- What do you think it looks like when someone is “overflowing with hope?” When have you felt that way?
- How do you see the themes of light/darkness and truth playing in these scriptures?
- Nicodemus’ story shows we can be successful and educated, and still feel “lost in the dark” when it comes to the way of Jesus. How does this challenge or encourage you?
- What else are you continuing to process/what else sticks out to you from these passages?

Pastor Jeremiah said that seeking what is true and living by it means being discipled in the way of Jesus. Yet the driving forces around us seek to make us disciples of the ways of fear, opposition, seeing those around as “other,” and being self-made and self-secure, among other things. Why is this a challenge and a danger for us? What are ways we can tell if we’re being discipled/developed more in the way of **Jesus** or the way of something else?

When asked where we are lost in the dark, Pastor Jeremiah prompted us to consider three invitations: to receive Jesus as our rescuer, to follow his ways in obedience, and to choose trust even when it seems dark. What is your next step? Invite someone to pray with and for you as you take that step.

How to begin a new life in Christ:

Jesus has already done everything necessary for us to have new life and freedom in him! We can choose to respond to this by:

- 1) Acknowledging we (like everyone else!) need new life in Jesus.
- 2) Asking God to forgive our sins by the work of Jesus.
- 3) Receiving new life from God by trusting in Jesus as the one who frees us (as Savior) and leads us (as Lord).

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Jesus, I have been lost in deep darkness and need you to rescue me. I have done things I need your forgiveness of; I have lived in separation from you and need you to reconcile us. You died and rose from the dead, so I know you can do this in my life. I receive you as my rescuing savior and put my faith in you as my Lord.

Help me to live for you in the light from this day forward. In your name, amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “JESUS” to 262-302-3021.

We’ll send you some exciting next steps and celebrate with you!

