

John – Week 4 – The True Light – Bible Study Helps

Title: The True Light: Jesus Christ Shining in the Darkness

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores John chapter 1, drawing powerful parallels between Genesis 1 and John 1, emphasizing how God divides light from darkness to bring new life. The pastor establishes that Jesus Christ is the true light of the world who came into spiritual darkness to separate people from darkness into His marvelous light. Throughout Scripture, darkness represents God's judgment on sin, while light represents God's presence, truth, and life. Though Jesus came as the Creator to His own creation, the world did not recognize Him, and His own people did not receive Him. However, to all who receive Him and believe in His name, He gives the power to become children of God through spiritual birth. The sermon emphasizes that believers are now the light of the world, called to bear witness to Christ's light in a darkening world, just as John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for the Lord. Christians must not hide their light but let it shine boldly, taking the gospel to those in darkness before it's too late.

Key Points:

- Darkness in Scripture always represents something negative—God's judgment on sin
- God's pattern from Genesis 1 is to divide light from darkness to bring new life
- Jesus Christ is the true light who came into a spiritually dark world
- The world did not recognize Jesus as Creator, and His own people rejected Him
- Sin compounds and gets worse over time, leading to spiritual blindness and hardened hearts
- Those who receive Christ and believe in Him are born again and become children of God
- Spiritual birth is not of blood, flesh, or human will, but of God
- Believers are now the light of the world, called to bear witness to Christ
- John the Baptist was sent to point people to Jesus, modeling our missionary calling
- Christians must not let Satan extinguish their light or hide it under a bushel
- The gospel is a powerful light that can penetrate the darkest hearts
- America and the church are spiritually sleeping while darkness advances
- Now is the urgent time to let our light shine and spread the gospel

Scripture Reference:

- John 1:1-13 (primary focus)
- Genesis 1:1-5

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- Exodus 10:21-23
- Matthew 27:45-46
- 2 Peter 2:4, 17
- Isaiah 30:1
- Hosea 13:1-2
- Matthew 24:12
- John 8:12, 9:5
- Matthew 5:14-16
- 2 Corinthians 4:4-6
- Ephesians 5:8
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Revelation 21:22-23
- Romans 1 (entire chapter referenced)

Stories:

- The pastor's conversation with Maddie about missionaries at Schönbrunn, where she learned what a missionary is and joyfully shared it with her sister
- Missionary Paris Reedhead going to Africa expecting easy conversions, only to discover people had already heard about Jesus and didn't want Him
- The song/poem "While You Were Sleeping" about Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and America missing Jesus while spiritually asleep
- Church history showing how revivals occurred when believers went out with their light and multiplied it through evangelism
- Personal experience of power outage where darkness covered most areas but some places had light, illustrating spiritual reality
- The parable of the Good Samaritan referenced regarding religious people avoiding those in need

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Discipleship Questions

How does the parallel between Genesis 1 and John 1 deepen your understanding of Jesus Christ as the creator and the light who brings new life?

In what ways have you experienced spiritual darkness in your own life, and how did the light of Christ penetrate that darkness?

The sermon emphasizes that darkness in Scripture is always connected to God's judgment on sin. How does this understanding change the way you view the spiritual condition of our world today?

Why do you think the world, and even Jesus' own people, failed to recognize or receive Him when He came as the true light?

What does it mean practically for believers to be 'the light of the world' today, and how can we avoid hiding our light under a bushel?

The pastor mentioned that sin compounds and gets worse over time if left unaddressed. How can we guard against allowing small sins to grow into greater darkness in our lives?

John the Baptist was sent to bear witness to the light so that all might believe. How does this model of witnessing challenge or inspire your approach to sharing the gospel?

Reflecting on the statement that 'the darkness comprehended it not,' what barriers prevent people today from understanding or receiving the gospel, and how can we address them?

How does understanding that we are born again 'not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God' impact your view of salvation and spiritual birth?

The sermon warns that while America and the church sleep, darkness advances. What specific actions can you take this week to awaken and let your light shine in your family, workplace, or community?

Small Group Guide: The True Light

Based on John 1:1-13

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to illuminate His truth and help you apply His Word to your lives.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you experienced complete darkness (power outage, cave tour, etc.). What was it like? How did you feel when light finally appeared?

Sermon Overview

This message explores how Jesus Christ is the true light who came into a dark world. Just as God separated light from darkness in Genesis 1 to bring new life, Jesus came to separate people from spiritual darkness and bring them eternal life. Now believers are called to be lights in the world, bearing witness to Christ.

Key Scripture

John 1:5 - "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

John 1:12 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Darkness

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1. **The Pattern of Darkness** - The sermon showed that darkness appears 162 times in the Bible, always in a negative context. Why do you think God consistently uses darkness to represent sin and judgment?
2. **Comprehending the Light** - John 1:5 says the darkness "comprehended it not." The sermon explained this means both "didn't understand" and "didn't receive/want it." How do you see both aspects playing out in our world today?
3. **Personal Reflection** - Before you were saved, in what ways were you living in darkness? How did the light of Christ break through to you?

Jesus: The True Light

4. **The Creator Unrecognized** - John 1:10-11 says Jesus came to the world He made and to His own people, yet was not received. Why is this so shocking? What does this reveal about the human heart?
5. **Genesis and John Parallels** - The sermon connected Genesis 1 (physical creation) with John 1 (spiritual re-creation). How does understanding this parallel deepen your appreciation of God's plan?
6. **No Need for the Sun** - Discuss Revelation 21:23 where Jesus Himself will be the light in the new heaven and earth. What does this tell us about His nature and glory?

Believers: Sent as Witnesses

7. **John the Baptist's Role** - John was "sent from God" to "bear witness of the light" (John 1:6-8). What can we learn from his example about our own calling?
8. **Let Your Light Shine** - Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16, "Ye are the light of the world... let your light so shine." What does it mean practically to "let" your light shine? What tries to hide or snuff out your light?
9. **The Darkness is Pressing In** - The sermon mentioned that darkness in our culture can now be "felt" (like in Exodus 10:21). Do you agree? What evidence do you see of increasing spiritual darkness?

Application and Action

10. **Protecting Life and Light** - The sermon emphasized that the devil tries to destroy life from conception and tries to extinguish the light of truth. How can we actively protect both life and light in our spheres of influence?
11. **Sleeping While the World Burns** - The poem "While You Were Sleeping" was shared, ending with "America, will we go down in history as a nation with no room for its king?" How can believers wake up from spiritual complacency?
12. **Your Mission Field** - Who in your life is living in darkness and needs to see the light of Christ? What specific steps can you take this week to be a witness to them?

Key Takeaways

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- ✓ **Darkness in Scripture** always represents sin, judgment, and separation from God
 - ✓ **Jesus Christ is the true light**—the source of all spiritual life
 - ✓ **The pattern from Genesis 1 repeats: God separates light from darkness to bring new life**
 - ✓ **The world rejected Jesus when He came, and continues to reject Him today**
 - ✓ **Those who receive Christ are born again and become children of God**
 - ✓ **Believers are now called to be lights in the world, bearing witness to Christ**
 - ✓ **The gospel is a light that can penetrate any darkness when we share it**
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of the following action steps:

Personal Holiness

- Identify any "darkness" (sin) you've allowed into your life. Confess it and ask God to cleanse you (1 John 1:9)
- Commit to daily time in God's Word to keep your light burning bright
- Examine what you're allowing into your mind through media, entertainment, etc.

Family Light

- Lead your family in discussing what it means to be "light" in your home
- Establish or strengthen family devotions to fill your home with God's truth
- Protect your children from influences that bring darkness

Witness to Others

- Pray specifically for 3 people living in darkness who need Christ
- Share the gospel with at least one person this week
- Give out gospel tracts or invite someone to church
- Stand up for biblical truth on a current issue (sanctity of life, biblical marriage, etc.)

Community Impact

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- Get involved in protecting life (support pregnancy centers, vote biblically, etc.)
 - Look for the "man on the side of the road" that others are passing by
 - Don't run away from darkness—bring light to it with love and truth
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Memory Verse

John 1:12 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Closing Reflection

The sermon ended with this powerful reminder: "The way God brings life is he separates or divides light from darkness. And then he takes the light and he goes and he makes new things. And you're made new because of the light of God."

Group Question: How has the light of Christ made you new? Share testimonies of transformation.

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

- Share prayer requests, especially for:
 - Lost family members and friends living in darkness
 - Boldness to be witnesses for Christ
 - Protection of life and biblical truth in our culture
 - Revival in the church and awakening in America

Close in prayer, asking God to:

- Keep your lights burning brightly
 - Give you opportunities and courage to witness
 - Use you to bring others from darkness to light
 - Prepare you for Christ's return
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For Next Week

Read John 1:14-34 in preparation for the next study in this series.

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Leader's Note: The urgency in this sermon reflects current cultural darkness and prophetic times. Be sensitive to group members who may feel overwhelmed, but also challenge complacency. The goal is both comfort (we have the light!) and conviction (we must share it!).

5-Day Devotional:

Walking as Children of Light

Day 1: God Divides Light from Darkness

Reading: Genesis 1:1-5; John 1:1-5

Devotional: From the very beginning, God's first creative act was to speak light into darkness. This wasn't merely physical illumination—it established a spiritual principle that echoes throughout Scripture. When darkness covered the earth, God said, "Let there be light," and immediately separated light from darkness. This same pattern appears when Jesus Christ, the true Light, entered our dark world. Just as God brought order from chaos in Genesis, He brings spiritual life from spiritual death through Christ. The darkness could not comprehend or overcome this light. Today, reflect on how God has spoken light into the darkness of your own life. Where there was confusion, sin, and death, He brought clarity, righteousness, and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Day 2: The Darkness Cannot Comprehend the Light

Reading: John 1:6-13; Romans 1:18-25

Devotional: The tragedy of human history is that when God Himself walked on earth, the world He created did not recognize Him. The darkness didn't just fail to understand—it refused to receive Him. This wasn't ignorance; it was willful rejection. Romans 1 reveals that humanity suppresses the truth, exchanging God's glory for created things. Sin compounds, growing worse and worse until hearts become cold and love grows dim. Yet here's the glorious hope: every person who receives Christ is given power to become a child of God. This is not by human effort, bloodline, or willpower, but by divine birth. You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Don't underestimate the darkness around you, but never doubt the power of God's light within you.

Day 3: Sent to Bear Witness

Reading: John 1:6-9; Matthew 5:14-16

Devotional: John the Baptist had one mission: bear witness to the Light. He wasn't the light himself, but he faithfully pointed others to Jesus Christ. This is now our calling. Jesus declared, "You are the light of the world." Notice He didn't say you should become the light—you already

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are if Christ lives in you. The question is whether you're letting that light shine. God's strategy hasn't changed: He uses redeemed people to point lost people to the Savior. Like John the Baptist, we must decrease so Christ can increase. The world is sleeping while darkness advances. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Don't let Satan blow it out through discouragement, fear, or compromise. Every time you share truth, give a gospel tract, or witness to someone, you're fulfilling God's eternal strategy. Let your light shine today.

Day 4: Born Again into the Light

Reading: John 3:1-8; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Devotional: Spiritual birth is not of blood, flesh, or human will—it's of God. Just as physical birth brings us into physical life, spiritual birth brings us into spiritual life and light. The God who commanded light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give us the knowledge of His glory in Christ Jesus. This is the miracle of salvation: we were dead, but now we're alive; we were blind, but now we see; we were in darkness, but now we're in marvelous light. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers so the light of the gospel cannot shine on them. But the gospel is a cannon that cannot be stopped when it's preached in power. If you're born again, you've experienced the greatest miracle possible. Don't squander this glorious privilege. Walk as a child of light.

Day 5: The Light Will Shine Forever

Reading: Revelation 21:22-27; 1 John 1:5-7

Devotional: One day, the spiritual reality we now know by faith will become our physical experience. In the new heaven and new earth, there will be no need for the sun or moon because the glory of God will illuminate everything, and the Lamb will be the light. From Genesis to Revelation, the circle completes: God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. Until that day arrives, we live in a world where darkness constantly tries to crowd out the light. But darkness is merely the absence of light—it has no power to overcome it. As we await Christ's return, our mission remains clear: protect life and light, stay close to Jesus, and let our light shine before others. America is sleeping. The church is sleeping. But you don't have to sleep. Now is the time to let your light shine. The darkness is gathering, but so is the dawn.