

A Divine Light in a Dark World

Part 1
Jesus is the Light of the World

2021.1.7&10



TALKING WALKING POINTS

Leaders' Guide



A publication of **DISCIPLE**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- 1 What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why?**
- 2 Pastor Doug noted that Jesus, the "Light of the world", enlightens us. Now read 2 Corinthians 4:6. **When** did God say, "Light shall shine out of darkness"? (Need a hint? See Genesis 1:3.)
- 3 What connections do you think Paul wants us to make between "creation" and "re-creation"?
- 4 Look at the connection between "God said" and "and it was so" in Genesis 1:6-7, 9, 11, and 14-15. When God speaks, what **always** happens?
Read John 6:37 and 10:27-29. When God calls people to salvation, what **always** happens? 5
- 6 Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. **Why** doesn't **everybody** believe the good news of God's forgiveness?
- 7 Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26. **What** can we do to help people believe the gospel (v. 25a)?
How must we do it (v. 24)?
What **can't** we do in order to help people believe the gospel (v. 25b-26)?
- 8 Doug said: "If you are **not** changing, ask yourself, 'Am I **really** a child of light? Am I **truly** born again? Is God's light radiating from me for all to see?' "
Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.
How confident are you that you are a "new creation"?
Mark your confidence level here:

Are you ready to shine with God's light?

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Low Medium High


Application-Challenge

- Spend some time this week reflecting on some of the ways that Jesus is the Light of the World. Consider how he is the source of life, truth and beauty.
- **Ask yourself:** "To what degree am I reflecting that light to others by how I live and by how I love? Am I really growing in Christlikeness? What are some **specific** ways that I'm growing and changing?"
- Allow the Holy Spirit to more fully control your life. Submit to him and allow him to produce the fruit of the Spirit in you—qualities like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- 1 This “standard” opening question is always appropriate. This is one to “keep in your toolbox”. Keep your “antenna up” for strong emotional responses (positive or negative). Responses need to be acknowledged, but things don’t need to be resolved or responded to immediately. You can always follow up over coffee.
- 2 Read this opening statement, and then have someone read 2 Corinthians 4:6. This is a *rich* passage—feel free to linger over it! It makes a clear allusion to Genesis 1:3, when God said, “Let there be light!”—and the darkness was flooded with light! Group members should make the connection that our hearts are dark, and need God to shine light into them! Through God’s illumination of our hearts we gain “the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ”. That too is a rich statement to explore.
- 3 Possible answers include: (all verses refer to Genesis ch. 1)
 - God is “prior” to creation. He’s always the initiator. God sovereignly acts; he doesn’t ask us! (v. 1)
 - Without Christ, our lives are “formless and void” (v. 2).
 - The Holy Spirit brings this life and order (v. 2)
- 4 Have group members open their Bibles and read these verses aloud. What you’ll notice is that when God tells something to happen (“Let there be light” or “Let vegetation come forth”), *it does!*
- 5 2 Corinthians 4:6 established a clear connection between God’s original creation (in Genesis 1) and God’s re-creation of the tarnished image of God in mankind, and so as you look at John 6 & 10 you similarly notice that when God calls someone to himself in salvation, *it happens!* God is sovereignly powerful in salvation, bringing life and light where chaotic death and disorder reigned.
- 6 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 teaches that there is a veil over non-believers “spiritual eyes”—they *cannot* see “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (v. 4) and “the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (v. 6). **Important Note:** Christians often are puzzled and stunned that non-believers “don’t get it”. But v. 4 calls it “spiritual blindness”, and it is a blindness that is as complete as is physical blindness. If we know someone who is physically blind, we *never* think, “What?! You can’t see that?!” We understand that they lack the ability to perceive light. In the same way, non-believers are utterly incapable of perceiving spiritual light. We are **absolutely dependent** upon God to “shne in iour hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (v. 6). Spiritual blindness is *real* blindness; they *cannot* see!
- 7
 - With spiritually blind people, we must correct their errors (v. 25a).
 - We must teach them kindly, patiently, and pleasantly (v. 24).
 - We *cannot* make them repent of their sins, come to their senses, and escape from Satan’s grasp. Only God can do those things. So, we do our part, and we pray that God will grant them sight.
- 8 Read Doug’s statement to the group. Have a group member read 2 Corinthians 5:15. Emphasize the “old-to-new” nature of salvation. It is not simply “personal improvement”; it is a new creation. Then tell folks to take a moment to rate their confidence level *privately*. After folks mark their answers, offer to folks that you, or TCC’s discipleship ministry (9) would be happy to meet with them individually to help them grow in their confidence.

Men—

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