

MADE FOR SOMETHING MORE**I Am a Light**

Ephesians 5:8-14

THE POINT:
*Shine the light
of Christ.***THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE**

Sin and darkness abound in our world. It always has, but our culture has become more open and blatant about sin. Worse, our society is increasingly embracing and endorsing sin, no longer even calling it sin. But sin is still sin. When we come to Christ, the Light of the world, and live as light, we present a sharp and inviting contrast to the darkness of sin.

► **When have you seen someone really light up a room?**

INTRO

Thomas Edison was granted a patent for his electric light bulb in 1879. Before then, light wasn't nearly as readily available, and over the last century, we've gradually come to take light for granted in many ways. We generally appreciate light, and if we wanted to, we could live continually in the light. However, as important as physical light is, it's not nearly as important as the spiritual light that radiates from Christ. In Ephesians, Paul teaches that followers of Jesus have not only seen light, but we are light! And as we shine the light of Christ, people will be drawn to Him.

EPHESIANS 5:8-10

When it comes to our faith, we may think it's impossible to look different, talk different, and live different without being considered some kind of outcast, so we try to balance living for Jesus with fitting in. However, Paul teaches us a lesson about living as light in the dark:

- You were once darkness—Living as the world lives and with our minds set on earthly things is natural for nonbelievers.
- Now you are light in the Lord—Not only are we in the light, but we are light, and our lives shine against the darkness.

When you light a candle in a pitch-black room, it's impossible for the light to blend into the darkness. As followers of Jesus live lives full of "all goodness, righteousness, and truth," we will stand out against the ways of the world like the sun flooding your bedroom after your mom throws back the curtains.

► **According to Paul, what are the signs that we are living in the light?**

EPHESIANS 5:11-12

The more godless our world becomes, the more we tend to lose our sensitivity to the evil that seeks to destroy us. Even professing Christians may sometimes become desensitized to immorality and fall into sinful patterns ourselves. Paul teaches not only that we're to refuse to participate in works of darkness, but further that it's "shameful even to mention" those sins. Talking about and mulling over the world's ways can cause us to become a little too familiar, and we may eventually fall into sin ourselves. God's people are set apart--transformed--and we're to live in a way that's distinctly different from the world.

► **How can we avoid becoming desensitized to darkness?**

EPHESIANS 5:13-14

Where there is no light, we can't see anything. However, when light comes into a place, everything around becomes visible. As we allow the spiritual light of Christ to shine in every corner of our lives, we become aware of shameful actions and attitudes we've kept hidden away. By aligning our lives to His standards, our light will shine brighter and brighter, and God will use us to expose the secret sins of others. As they see the truth, they'll have the opportunity to forsake their sin and follow Jesus. As God's children, it's essentially important that we allow His light to shine in our lives that we would, in turn, fulfill our purpose of being a light to the world!

► **Where do you see opportunities to shine the light of Christ in your community?**



LIVE IT OUT

▶ CHRIST

If we are to radiate the light of Jesus, we must continually pour light in. Otherwise, there's no light to shine out. Read Luke 11:34 and answer the following questions:

- ▶ **What does it mean to allow darkness into our eyes?**

- ▶ **How are we to allow light into our eyes so that it fills our entire lives?**

- ▶ **How do these things impact your relationship with Jesus?**

▶ COMMUNITY

When we sin in our actions or even in our thoughts, we want to keep it hidden. However, if we think we can keep our sins secret, we're sadly mistaken—Jesus sees everything! One way God helps us to overcome hidden sins is by allowing others to see into our lives and share our burdens that are too big to handle alone.

This week invite a group member to help hold you accountable. Make sure to share in a way that's appropriate and Christ-honoring.

▶ CULTURE

There's a lot of darkness in every community and it takes many forms.

Where do you identify darkness in your school, neighborhood, or city?

This week, how will you commit to shining the light of Christ into areas of darkness?

Make it a point to pray every day for the people who haven't seen the light of Jesus.



BIBLE READING PLAN

DAY 1
EPHESIANS 1

DAY 2
EPHESIANS 2

DAY 3
EPHESIANS 3

DAY 4
EPHESIANS 4:1-16

DAY 5
EPHESIANS 4:17-32

DAY 6
EPHESIANS 5

DAY 7
EPHESIANS 6