

DEFINITION **LIGHT** **/LĪT/**

a feeling of great pleasure and happiness; rejoice

SCRIPTURE

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

BIG IDEA

The Bible says that in the beginning, the earth was formless and empty, and a darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God spoke, "let there be light," and there was light. That was the first day. But God did not create the sun until the fourth day. So where did the light come from on that first day? It makes you ponder the vast greatness and glory of our God. In essence he is LIGHT!

From the beginning the completeing force against light was darkness. We see that the world is a dark place. Light has been replace by opinion, excuses, greed, selfishness, the love of pleasure. When we look around it can feel discouraging, and even surprising at how deep the depravity goes. But God isn't surprised. 2000 years ago, He taught us through Paul in 2 Timothy 3:2 that people would be lovers of themselves. And God sent a light, Jesus, to penetrate that darkness.

Throughout history, when the fate of man seemed at its darkest, God provided a testimony of light. With Noah, it was the light of mercy. With Abraham, it was a light of friendship. With Moses, we see the power of God's deliverance. With Joshua, the light of God's authority over evil shone brightly. Most of all, God's light came down in the form of a man as a baby. Even creation was pointing the way to the messiah by way of a star in the sky. His light would bring love, righteousness, kindness, compassion, longsuffering, grace and salvation.

We have the great joy to share the light of Jesus to this broken world. In the darkest moments we can be the candle that lights up a dark room, and draws others to the light. We shine hope in the face of disease, courage in the face of divorce and abuse. God is using us as a light of reconciliation in our families and restoration in our communities. But what dims our light? Confusion? Criticism? Fear? Offense? Our light can be dimmed; our light can be put out. But just like putting logs on the fire, we have to be able to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in our life. Dig deeper and digest the word of God in your life. Share your faith with those around you, for we will overcome by the word of our testimony. As you share your light in your homes, your communities, your workplaces, you will begin to see the light of Jesus transform lives.

CONVERSATION

Discuss what it means to be a light. Ask yourself, am I being a light?

What are some things that dim your light?

What are some ways you can be a light to those around you?

TAKE AWAY

When we study what it means to be marked by light, we can look at the characteristics of a handful of women throughout history. Marie Curie was a light in the darkness of ignorance, characterized by her persistence. She was a pioneer in the fields of chemistry and physics, and won the Nobel Prize in 1903 and 1911. Florence Nightingale was a light in the darkness of suffering, characterized by excellence in cleanliness. She is recognized as the founder of modern nursing and she made substantial contributions to health statistics. Mother Teresa was a light in the darkness of poverty and suffering, characterized by her compassion for people. She founded the Missionaries of Charity which runs more than 760 charitable homes for the crippled, blind, unwanted, unloved, and uncared for in more than 139 countries around the world. Harriet Tubman was a light in the darkness of slavery, characterized by striving for justice. Aimee Semple McPherson was a light in the darkness of unbelief, characterized by her obedience to Jesus' command, "Go, and preach the gospel." She is the founder of Foursquare Church and pioneered the use of broadcast mass media to influence millions of people worldwide. Today, make a choice to be like one of these extraordinary people who chose to be a light right where they were at.

WEEK 8

MARKED BY LIGHT



NOTES

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