



Life Group Notes

Who am I? Our True Identity

Session 6: I am a light in the world

Opening conversation:

The Bible begins with God's word of command, 'Let there be light!'

Imagery of light and darkness is powerful because the associated human emotions are strong. Do you know someone who 'lights up the room' when they come in? The much-loved children's book, 'The Owl who was afraid of the dark', was written to help children overcome any fear of the dark. Have you ever been afraid of the dark? Do you have to wear dark glasses because the light is too bright? Do you know anyone who is troubled by 'dark thoughts'? How much of the drama shown on screen is 'dark' and how does this affect viewers? Talk around this subject for a **short** while, before reading....

Matthew 5. 14-16

- As the series exploring 'Who we are in Christ' draws to an end, we are asked now to look outwards and face the challenge of being lights in the world. But what needs to have happened in our own lives, before we can do this? See John 8. 12, Colossians 1. 13.
- Do we feel inadequate for this calling? How will what we've learnt about being loved, chosen and blameless empower us? Why should 1 John 1. 5-7 encourage us when we falter in our daily walk with Jesus?
- Read Philippians 2. 12-16a. What practical guidance does this give? How good are we at 'shining among them (the people we meet) like stars in the sky as we hold firmly to the word of life'?
- There's an old children's hymn, 'Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light', which says 'Many kinds of darkness in this world abound, sin and doubt and sorrow; so we must shine, you in your small corner, and I in mine.'
What sorts of darkness do we encounter in our daily lives and contacts?
- How does this calling, to be a light in the world, fit with our churches' strap line, 'Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities'? Identify and pray for some of our interactions with our community, eg Octagon and St Mary's Pantries, Poolbrook café, CAP, Bereavement café, Food Bank.
- How and where are you being called and empowered to shine?

Reflect and pray

Recognise that any light we shine with, as lights in the world, is the reflected light of Jesus, the light of the world. See 2 Corinthians 3.18, 4. 6-7 and listen to/sing 'Shine Jesus shine',

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GZwHe0hjbU>

*'As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing, from glory to glory,
Mirrored there may our lives tell Your story,
Shine on me!'*

Pray for one another, to be lights in the world.