



## **“Shine: Being His Light in Darkness” Leaders Guide**



The following questions are optional guidance questions in order to facilitate a small group discussion based on the key scriptures and questions gone over in the study. Please feel free to use which seem best for your individual group and come up with your own. May your group time be blessed!

### **Week 1: Our Light Source**

#### **Day 1: The Beginning**

1. What stood out to you about this week?
2. Did it surprise you that the light on day 1 was not from the sun, moon, and stars? How did that realization make you feel?
3. Read the excerpt from Exodus 10:21-23. Discuss this extraordinary phenomenon and what it illustrates about God.
4. Have the women choose their favorite verse about the purpose of the sun, moon, and stars on page 16 and explain why.

#### **Day 2: The End**

1. Read through Revelation 21:22-27 together as a group. Discuss the idea of light at the end (or the beginning when all things are made new) and Jesus as the Lamb who will also be the light.
2. Who will be allowed into the gates of heaven, and who will not?
3. Have the ladies read a couple of the verses describing the Book of Life from page 21 and discuss what this book is.

#### **Day 3: And Everything In-Between**

1. The way Jesus is described in Isaiah 9:1-7 is just so powerful. What other names are given to Jesus besides light, and which means the most to you?
2. Read John 1:1-12 and discuss why the darkness does not comprehend the light.
3. What is the significance of Jesus declaring Himself the “Light of the world,” during the Feast of Tabernacles?

#### **Day 4: Jesus’s Triumph over Darkness**

1. Why did Jesus submit to His Father’s will, and what is your usual reason for obedience?
2. What did the 3 hours of darkness upon Jesus’s death signify, and how does that make you feel?
3. What are the two sources of hope that we see after Jesus’s death? Discuss their significance.

#### **Day 5: Our Helper and the Word**

1. Read John 16:13-14 and discuss the Holy Spirit’s role. What does that look like in your life?
2. What parts of the Bible are difficult to believe?
3. How can you stay rooted in the Word so that it remains your light?
4. Any other thoughts or Scripture that stood out to you this week?



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### **Week 2: The Darkness**

#### **Day 1: What Is the Darkness?**

1. What key verses or thoughts were significant to you from this week?
2. How did you describe darkness from the question on page 41?
3. Discuss the need to separate from darkness and evil. In what ways is our culture failing in that?
4. What do you think is the difference between partnership with darkness and being a light in the darkness?

#### **Day 2: The Prince of Darkness**

1. In what ways does Satan blind this world?
2. Read together Ephesians 4:17-18 and discuss the harm of pride.
3. Ask if anyone would like to share a story of how pride had blinded them in the past, and how they were restored.

#### **Day 3: How Satan Blinds Us?**

1. Read John 8:44. How do the Scriptures we read in Genesis and Matthew, prove this characteristic of Satan from John 8:44?
2. Why is it so important to have a deep understanding of the Word of God?
3. In your experience, how has hate blinded you or maybe someone that you know?
4. It is impossible to love God and hate your brother at the same time. Discuss this very important (but hard) truth.

#### **Day 4: The Darkness of Hell Is Real**

1. This was a difficult day looking at the reality of hell. After reading through all the scriptures, what are your thoughts on hell?
2. Read together 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10 and discuss the full extent of punishment as seen in verse 9.
3. Look at the parable in Matthew 13:24-30 together and talk about the question at the bottom of page 57. Why does God not want the weeds taken out before the right time? How does this show His compassion?
4. How does the reality of hell make you live differently?

#### **Day 5: Turning from Darkness**

1. Read Psalm 107:8-16 together and discuss both the hopelessness and the hope shown in this scripture.
2. What is signified by Jesus giving sight to the blind man in John 9?
3. How has Jesus taken you out of darkness?
4. Are there any other thoughts or Scriptures that you would like to reflect on today?



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### **Week 3: The Purpose of Light**

#### **Day 1: Shining through Us**

1. What stood out to you about this week on the purpose of light?
2. What is the ultimate purpose of our light?
3. Reflect on Jesus’s 7 ‘I am’ statements and the significance that He also called us lights of the world.
4. Read together 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5 and discuss how this relates to you.

#### **Day 2: Revealing the Way**

1. What does revealing the way mean to you?
2. Discuss the ways in which God revealed the way to the Israelites in the Old Testament.
3. Share how God has revealed His way to you in the past.
4. Using the scriptures that we read in Matthew and Romans, how can you reveal the way to others?

#### **Day 3: Exposing Sin – Part 1**

1. Share which verse spoke to you the most about hidden sin.
2. Discuss the 4 aspects of being a light which exposes sin -- living out the fruits of light, taking no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, to not even speak of the works of darkness, and exposing sin.
3. What can happen when sin is exposed in someone’s life?

#### **Day 4: Exposing Sin – Part 2**

1. Share your personal stories of how Christians have shone too brightly or in the wrong way.
2. Discuss the difference between judging sin and exposing sin.
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:23-26 together. What is our role in confronting sin, and what is God’s role?
4. We looked at Galatians 6:1, but also read verses 2 and 3. What behavior do you need to watch out for when you are exposing sin and why?

#### **Day 5: Drawing Others**

1. Read Isaiah 60:1-3 and discuss how this passage relates to you.
2. Using the verses from page 85, what are the key characteristics that are attractive to others?
3. Jesus drew sinners to Him, those who were hurting, sick, and in need of a Savior. How can you draw sinners to Jesus?
4. Do you have any questions you would like to share from this week on our purpose in being a light?



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### Week 4: The Hidden Light

#### Day 1: Where Is the Light?

1. What thought or verse really made an impact on you from this week’s study?
2. In Mark 4:21 and Luke 8:16 how is the light hidden?
3. Why do you think you (or Christians in general) hide their light?
4. What makes it hard to shine in today’s culture?

#### Day 2: What Do We Fear?

1. Can you think of a time that fear has “snared” you and kept you from doing or saying something? Would you like to share?
2. After looking at two Godly characters, Saul and Paul, does it make you feel better that all people face the fear of men? Though we all face fear, what should we do with that fear?
3. Discuss the reality of, “What can man do to me?” from Psalm 118:6. What can man do, but what can’t he do?
4. Read Jeremiah 17:5-8 together and compare the warning for those who trust in man and the blessing for those who trust in the Lord.

#### Day 3: You Will Be Hated

1. The reality of the culture we live in is that Christians are hated. Can you give some examples?
2. Could you read which verse stood out to you the most from page 100 on how we will be hated?
3. Discuss ways in which Jesus was hated. What did He do?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 6:4-10 and the difficult task of living for Jesus. Also reflect on the end of verse 10 that says, “as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.” How do we make many rich, and what is the “everything” that we possess? Remember that!

#### Day 4: God’s Love Casts out Fear

1. What does it mean to you that “there is no love in fear”? Is that true in your life?
2. If you want to be vulnerable, share what prevents you from believing in God’s unconditional love for you.
3. What’s your favorite verse on God’s love for you? It can be from your reading or another Scripture.
4. Why does God command us to love Him?
5. Does the love of God take away your fear? If not, why?

#### Day 5: Love (of People) Casts out Fear

1. What is the phrase that is repeated over and over again in 1 John chapter 4?
2. How is loving God related to loving people?
3. What do the Scriptures on page 111 tell us about meeting a person’s physical needs?
4. How can you move forward in loving people in a way that conquers your fear?



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### Week 5: The Unshared Light

#### Day 1: What Is Selfishness

1. What stood out to you this week?
2. What is the difference between conviction and condemnation?
3. Share your definition of spiritual selfishness.
4. Is there a person or people group that you would run from sharing the gospel with?
5. What is God’s heart for ALL people?

#### Day 2: Hiding Your Talents

1. What is a talent signifying in this parable?
2. Do you trust in God’s perfect justice?
3. What is God’s heart behind His punishment as seen in Jeremiah 18:1-11?
4. Discuss the blessings and rewards you’ve been given, and how you can give with what you’ve been given.

#### Day 3: As Long as It Doesn’t Happen to Me

1. Did the story of Hezekiah that we looked at resonate with you? Why or why not?
2. In light of the verses we read from 1 Corinthians 10:24 and Philippians 2:3-4, how are you to consider others?
3. How does this translate over to your faith, the greatest gift that you have?

#### Day 4: Leaving That Place of Comfort

1. Discuss the question on page 132 from the Matthew 8:19-20 reading. Do you think that Jesus was implying that the young man couldn’t follow him or that he wouldn’t want to follow him?
2. From the three Scriptures we looked at on page 133, what can we learn from Jesus’s actions?
3. How can you relate this to your life? How do you find rest? How do you endure through the uncomfortable or hard?

#### Day 5: Serving Our Master

1. How did Jesus demonstrate His authority, and how does that differ from the usual behavior of those in authority?
2. Read Philippians 2:14-15 together and discuss the importance of serving without grumbling.
3. What is the purpose of your servanthood?
4. Are there any other Scriptures or thoughts you would like to share from this week?



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### **Week 6: The Dim Light**

#### **Day 1: Becoming Weary**

1. As we looked at being a dim light this week, which day really spoke to you and why?
2. What has made you weary in this life?
3. Read Isaiah 49:4-5 together and discuss why Isaiah would have been weary, and what he did to continue in the work he was doing.
4. Could you share some things that you need to cast aside in order to run this race with endurance, including specific expectations you have?
5. What does it mean that, “His yoke is easy”?

#### **Day 2: Waiting**

1. How did looking at a few examples of people who waited in the Bible, encourage you in your waiting?
2. Read Psalm 37:7-9 together and discuss why it is so easy to get angry while waiting.
3. Looking at how a farmer cultivates the land while waiting for the harvest, how can you “cultivate” the ground God has you in while waiting?
4. Patience is key! Even God is patiently waiting. What is God waiting for and why?

#### **Day 3: Lure of Wealth**

1. After reading the parable from Matthew 13:3-23, discuss the question on page 152, “why do you think riches and cares of this world choke our faith?”.
2. How is wealth another tool that Satan uses to blind us?
3. Discuss the chart you filled out according to 1 Timothy 6:17-19 on page 154.

#### **Day 4: In the World, Not of the World**

1. What stood out to you from reading John chapter 17?
2. Share in what ways you have been sent into the world.
3. Discuss the importance of having fellowship with other believers.
4. How can you balance spending time with believers and with nonbelievers?

#### **Day 5: Return to Your First Love**

1. Read Revelation 2:4-5 together and discuss the three things you are to do if you’ve lost your first love.
2. God does not remember our sins, however, why is it important for us to remember where we have come from and to not forget?
3. Describe when you first fell in love with Jesus and were saved. Have your feelings, actions, thoughts changed since then – maybe for the better, maybe for the worse?
4. Share your response to the question on page 163, “How do we keep that fire in our hearts red-hot or glowing?”.
5. Is there anything else you would like to share from this week’s study?



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### Week 7: From Candles to Beacons

#### Day 1: Wake Up!

1. What stood out to you this week as we looked at becoming beacons of light.
2. Would you like to share a story of a time you missed an opportunity?
3. What stood out to you about the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25?
4. Do you truly believe that your role as a light bearer is significant to Christ? Why or why not?
5. How are you using your time in light of these things? Are there things you are putting off or are you too distracted to be aware of what God is calling you to?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 and discuss the armor we are to put on and how that prepares us.

#### Day 2: Worship

1. Read Psalm 145:1-13 together and discuss how God is described and our natural response to who He is.
2. How are you described in 1 Peter 2:9, and how does that make you feel?
3. How does worship lead to you being a brighter light?

#### Day 3: Our Works – Part 1

1. What are your thoughts after reading the verses on the top of page 178 about faith?
2. What are your thoughts after reading the verses on works?
3. How do both faith and works work together, and how do you find that balance in your life?
4. Why are our good works associated with being a light to the world?

#### Day 4: Our Works – Part 2

1. Describe how *you* are God’s workmanship.
2. Discuss the actions listed in Isaiah 58:1-10 in order for “your light to break forth,” and how those translate to this culture.
3. If our salvation is not work based, why do you think our works are so important in the final judgement that we looked at in Matthew 25?
4. Are there any particular works that the Lord is calling you to?

#### Day 5: Wisdom

1. Why is wisdom such a critical aspect to being a light?
2. Who is the giver of wisdom, and what should you do if you lack wisdom as found in James 1:5?
3. Read through James 3:13-18 together and discuss the difference between the wisdom from above and “false wisdom.”
4. Are there any other aspects of our worship, works, and wisdom that you would like to talk about today?



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### Week 8: For His Glory

#### Day 1: It’s Not Our Light

1. What about this week spoke to you?
2. Share what you wrote down about what it means to you for God to be glorified by your light.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 together and discuss what the “treasure” is, and what reveals God’s power to others.
4. Which verse meant the most to you from those we looked at on page 194, and why is it so important for us to understand how we are like jars of clay?
5. As we share His light, how is God further glorified?

#### Day 2: His Face Will Shine on You

1. Read through Numbers 6:24-26 together and discuss why this prayer is such a special prayer.
2. What does “the Lord bless you,” really mean to you?
3. How is God gracious to you after reading Romans 3:21-24 and Ephesians 1:7-10?
4. Do you believe God’s face shines on you – that He looks on you with love and approval?

#### Day 3: Reflecting His Face

1. Together look at Exodus 34:29-35. Share your responses to the two questions on page 201.
2. What has taken away the veil from 2 Corinthians 3:12-18?
3. How can you relate to the moon?
4. Discuss ways in which you can reflect God more and more.

#### Day 4: The Glory of the Lord

1. It can be very hard to define God’s glory. Look up some definitions and discuss them with your group.
2. Which Scripture meant the most to you when reading about God’s glory?
3. What aspects of light were woven into these descriptions of God/Jesus?
4. How does God’s glory impact you and your reason to be a light?

#### Day 5: You Are the Light of the World!

1. As we looked at each week of this study and reviewed, which week most resonated with you?
2. Are there any specific verses that spoke to you during the course of this study?
3. Share your main take-away from what you’ve read.
4. Is there anything specific the Lord has called you to do over the last eight-weeks of studying His light?



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