

Bible Study Notes for Small Groups
from Sunday 22nd September 2024

I AM the Light of the World
John 8: 12-18

When Moses encountered the Lord in the burning bush and asked for His name God told him it is I AM. What He was saying was

***‘I AM who I AM. There is no-one and nothing higher than me.
I am everything and I go with you.’***

When Jesus was using the I AM statements He was aligning Himself with those statements that God gave Moses. He was saying

‘I AM who God says I am.’

- Who is God to you?
- How significant is that I AM statement of His identity to you?

Light is an important and constant theme throughout Scripture. The concept of darkness and light reoccurs many times and they are symbolic of evil and purity. Genesis opens with darkness covering everything and God speaking light into the darkness. The darkness could not put that light out because the Spirit of God was ‘loitering with intent’ to shatter the darkness with the light of God. God said

‘Let there be light’

and there was light.

In Genesis 1, in Isaiah 9, in 1 John and in John 1:5 Light is identified to be that of God’s presence and Jesus continually identifies Himself with that light. There is light in Genesis 1 and light in Revelation 22; the beginning of the Bible and the end.

- Read together Revelation 22:3-5.

God will be the light that shines in that eternal city. He will give the same light that He promised in Isaiah 9. We know that light to be Jesus. He is the only light. So we see that throughout scripture God takes us on a journey of light.

The Light Shines and Nothing Overcomes It.

- If you have ever experienced deep darkness, what was it like?
- How do you feel when you find yourself in the dark?

When the Hebrews were brought out of Egypt by God through Moses they finally came to a place where they stopped moving about and found permanence. But God wanted them to remember that bringing out and wandering about so He established a yearly festival to remind them. It still goes on today and is called Tabernacles because in the desert they lived in tents. It is a festival of light where torches were created by burning the under garments of the priests on bullrushes and processing them up to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple is the highest point in the city and the light could be seen from a long way off because there is nothing higher.

John 1:5

In this scripture Jesus was referring to the Temple full of light at the celebration of Tabernacles. The Temple is above everything else so nothing can overcome the light coming from it. He was saying this is exactly like Him. He is the light that is higher than everything else and cannot be hidden. No matter what is going on around and about, His light still shines and remains alight.

- How does a candle receive light?
- How do we make the candle stop shining?
- How do we make our Christmas Tree lights shine?

You Are The Light Of The world

God shines in and around everything that goes on around us. He can also shine through us and out of us. The only thing that can put out that light is us. It happens when we choose the world over God.

- Can you remember the first time you ‘saw the light’ and decided to follow Jesus?
- Can you remember what it was like before you asked Jesus to be your Saviour?

For God’s light to shine from us we need to be switched on to the Holy Spirit and we need to be connected to the source of light which is God. No amount of trying

to shine without that connection will work. We can enjoy Jesus' gifts from the sidelines but when we don't have Jesus in us, He can't shine out of us. Where Jesus is, all things become illuminated by that Light.

Read together Matthew 5:14-16

The surface of the sun is a heat of at least 5,000 degrees and the heat emits light that travels hundreds of thousands of miles. It shines all the time and we see it here on earth when our part of the planet faces the sun.

When the moon faces the sun, because it is covered with a special reflective surface, although it has no light source of its own, it picks up and reflects the sun's light and we see it thousands of miles away.

- How can we reflect and shine with Jesus?
- What do you think things would be like where we live and worship if we truly and constantly reflected and shone with the light of Christ?

A Prayer.....

Father forgive me when I snuff out the light of Jesus in my life. Help me to receive and shine with Jesus so that your name will be glorified and others will be drawn to His light. Amen