

Family Group Midweek Lessons

July 17, 2013



July 17

I AM: The Light of the World

This Family Group Bible-Talk is intended to supplement the July 14th sermon at the MSPCOC. Although having attended or listened to that lesson is helpful, it is not required to take part in the following discussion.

Opening Questions and Thoughts:

- Ask everyone in the group to take out their cell phones
- Ask them to get ready to complete the simple task of taking out the battery in their cell phone and putting it back in (and they must put the phone back together, complete with protective case if they have one)
- There is just one twist, you will be doing it in the dark (hopefully you have a room that you can make completely dark—if that's not possible then arrange for everyone to be blindfolded)
- Tell everyone that they have 15 seconds to complete the task
- Once you have done it, turn the lights on and let everyone try again in 15 seconds
- Was it easier or harder in the dark?

Read: Isaiah 59:9-10

Group Questions:

- In what ways does it seem that our world is like someone stumbling around in the dark?

Read: Isaiah 49:6

Group Questions:

- This passage serves a dual purpose at looking what was supposed to be Israel's role in the world but at which they had largely failed, and the role that one day the Messiah would fulfill
- What are some of the reasons that Israel failed to be the light of the world?
- What do you think it means to be the light of the world?

Read: John 1:1-5

Group Questions:

- *Jews and early Christians talked about the world being split into two ages. There was the present age that was fallen and sinful and the age to come that promised God's presence, the destruction of evil, the resurrection, and so on.*
- *John's declaration here was that humanity no longer had to wait for that age to one day come to the whole world as they believed. He declared that this age had somehow become a person and had broken into the present age (it would be like us declaring that heaven was a person that came to earth). In Jesus was that life of the age to come.*
- With that understanding what is the gravity and meaning of what John says in these verses?

Read: John 3:19-21

Group Questions:

- What causes the differences in response to the light?
- What does it mean specifically to "live by the truth"?
- Why do you think that living by the truth and coming into the light can be so challenging?

Read: John 8:12

Group Questions:

- What are the amazing promises that Jesus made here?
- *As we have seen, the idea of being the light was connected with the life of the age to come*
- What then does it mean to have "the light of life"?
- In what ways does your life reflect the life of the age to come to others?
- In what ways does it still look all too like the life and values of the present dark age?

Read: Matthew 5:14

Group Questions:

- *Jesus fulfilled the unique vocation of being the light of the world, a role that Israel could never live up to*
- He has passed on that vocation to his disciples
- In what ways can we put a bowl over the community of Christ?
- How can we let our light shine before others?
- What is the purpose of letting that light shine and be seen?

Final Thought:

- What can you do this week in your own neighborhood, work, etc., to let the light of the world that comes through the life of Christ shine for others to see?



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