

## LEAVE THE LIGHT ON

### The Book of Ephesians

#### Introduction

Ephesians 5:8, Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 60:19, John 8:12,1 John 1:5

I. A New Description – Ephesians 5:8, Ephesians 2:1-3

A. We were once Darkness

1. Darkness is a Person – Ephesians 6:12
2. Darkness is a Power – Colossians 1:13
3. Darkness is a Preference – John 3:19-21
4. Darkness is a Place – Matthew 8:12

B. We are now light – Matthew 5:14, 1 Peter 2:9

II. A New Direction – Ephesians 5:8-9

A. Our relationship with Others - “goodness” – 1 Thessalonians 5:15, 2 Thessalonians 1:11

B. Our relationship with God - “righteousness” – 1 Timothy 6:11, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Romans 6:13, 1 John 2:29

C. Our relationship with Ourselves - “truth”

III. A New Desire – Ephesians 5:10, Philippians 1:9-10

IV. A New Distinction – Ephesians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 5:9-11

V. A New Duty – Ephesians 5:11-13

#### Conclusion

Ephesians 5:14, Isaiah 60:1, Matthew 5:16

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### Getting Started

1. Think of a time when you were in total darkness (eg., power outage, camping, etc.). How did it impede your ability to function and move? What emotions did you experience in the process? Try to really dig into these thoughts, feelings, and perspectives. It's easy to give an "off the top of your head" response, but this imagery of light and darkness saturates the short passage we are studying this week, showing us just how important it is to grasp. So, consider this well - maybe even put yourself in a completely darkened room (safely!) and note the experience. Do you experience fear, disorientation, impeded memory of the room, unwillingness to move very far? Why?
  
2. How did it feel to then have a light source once again? What kind of perspective did you gain that you lacked in the dark? In what way did it change how you moved around in the space? I can't help but imagine of trying to do a simple task in the dark (putting something away, pouring water into a glass, find something in a drawer, etc.) and the absolute frustration I'd get from not having any spacial awareness, having to move painfully slowly, and just the feeling that at any minute I'd knock something over I didn't know was there. You move smaller, slower, and more cautiously in the dark, don't you?

### Going Deeper

1. Read Ephesians 5:8. What does this specific verse call us to do? Why?

2. Read the following verses. Who is our light source? What does this mean for us?

There is one answer for all of these collectively. Have different members of your group read these out loud. Some bonus questions provided below.

Psalm 27:1 - What do both "light" and "salvation" offer that casts out fear?

Isaiah 60:19 - Where/when is this passage referring to?

John 8:12 - What happened immediately prior to this verse? Who was Jesus talking to?

I John 1:5 - Read this whole chapter - it's such an encouragement.

3. We heard Pastor Jeremiah say that "Darkness is a Person" (Ephesians 6:12).

Who is he referring to? Why is it important to keep this in mind? How does it change the way we interact with spiritual darkness? That darkness is a *who* and not a *what* means many things, but one key thing is that it means it has a *motive*. What is that motive?

4. Read John 3:19-21. Why do some choose darkness? What do they believe it does *for* them? What does it actually do *to* them? This is a tough one, because we all have someone we care about who lives this way. How do you see this in their life? How does it impact how you pray for them?

5. Read Ephesians 5:11-13. Twice we are told that the light exposes that which is in darkness. What does this mean in your life? In the life of someone you know? **What remains in darkness continues to haunt - what is brought into the light cannot. The relief and joy of this seemingly difficult verse is that the light of Christ does both the work of exposing *and* eradicating that which lingers in shadow.**

### **Applying the Message**

1. How does the idea of the light exposing that which is darkness make you feel? Does it bring you comfort, worry, eagerness, or maybe hesitance? Why do you think that is? **Be as honest and vulnerable as you feel comfortable on this one. Yes, there will always be comfort in this for those of us who love the Lord. But our flesh, our old man, might also have something to say as well - this, too, is best brought into the light and dealt with.**
2. We walk as children of the light. How can you let more light into your own life this week? How can you shine it into the darkness all around you? Who needs to see the light of Christ shine from you today? **Have everyone name someone, and pray together over each of these names, asking the Lord to work in their lives this week. Bonus: Check back next week about these individuals!**