



Group Discussion Guide



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Light: the Mystery of Christmas

Group Discussion Guide

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Series Overview

This series begins with creation as God spoke light into existence. We will compare the physical and spiritual aspects of light including the absence of light, how light is hope, and how Christ is the Light of the world.

Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Light**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

1-Let There Be Light

Scripture: [Genesis 1:3](#), [14-18](#)

Icebreaker: Light Sayings

Make a list of sayings or lyrics that use the word light (ex. I saw the light). It's okay to burst into song during this exercise.

Discussion Questions: Life Depends on Light

- Life as we know it could not exist without the light of the sun ([Gen 1:14-18](#)). Discuss how spiritual life cannot exist without light ([2Cor 4:6](#)).
- Light makes it possible for us to see the obstacles and ditches in front of us ([Psa 119:105](#)). In a typical day, what types of obstacles and ditches might be in our path? How can God's Word keep us from tripping?
- What does it mean to walk as children of light ([Eph 5:8](#))? Contrast the behaviors you would expect to see from those who are children of light compared to those who are not.

<i>Children of Light</i>	<i>Children Not of Light</i>

Dig a Little Deeper: Light vs. Darkness

Consider these verses to contrast light and darkness. Feel free to add more verses to the list.

<i>Light</i>	<i>Darkness</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Christ (John 8:12)● God's Word (Psa 119:130)● God's people (Eph 5:8)● righteousness (Pro 4:18)● salvation (1Pet 2:9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Satan (Eph 6:12)● sin (John 3:19-21)● death (Job 3:4-6)● spiritual ignorance (John 1:5)● divine judgment (Mat 8:12)

Application Exercise: Light of Your Life

Pray, inviting Christ to be the light of your life. Tell Him the specifics of the areas where you most need His help.

2-The Absence of Light

Scripture: [Genesis 1:4](#)

Icebreaker: Total Darkness

Discuss the closest you have been to a place of total darkness (ex. cave, elevator when lights went out). How did you react to the darkness? Why does darkness make us uncomfortable?

Discussion Questions: Disguise, Deceive, Deny

- Discuss the strategy that Satan used to bring sin into the world.
 - ▶ He disguised himself ([Gen 3:1](#)). What types of counterfeits are in the world today ([Gal 1:6-10](#) and [2Cor 11:26](#))?
 - ▶ He used deception ([Gen 3:1](#)). In what way does deception come to us today ([Pro 30:3-5](#) and [Rev 22:18-19](#))?
 - ▶ He denied God's Word ([Gen 3:4](#)). What does denying God's Word look like in today's world ([Rom 1:18-25](#))?

- What darkens people's understanding ([Eph 4:17-18](#))?

- Why do people resist the light ([John 3:19-20](#))?

- Why is it impossible to use darkness to hide from God ([Psa 139:12](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Light and Darkness Don't Mix

Spiritually, why are light and darkness separated?

- [2Corinthians 6:14-16](#)
- [Ephesians 5:1-14](#)

Application: Prayer of Confession and Repentance

1. Pray, admitting to God where you have sinned ([Psa 51:3](#)).
2. Ask God to give you a hatred for your sin ([2Cor 7:10-11](#)).
3. Plead with God to fill your thoughts with His Word ([Psa 119:9-11](#)).
4. Ask God to help you avoid situations that offer too much temptation ([Rom 13:14](#)).
5. Thank God for forgiving your sins ([1John 1:9](#)).

3-Light is Hope

Scripture: [Isaiah 9:2](#), [Matthew 4:16](#)

Icebreaker: Power of Hope

Use this poem to discuss the power of hope.

*Hope, like the gleaming taper's light
Adorns and cheers our way;
And still, as darker grows the night
Emits a brighter ray.
-Oliver Goldsmith*

Discussion Questions: True Light

- Describe how seeing the light of Christ brings hope to those walking in darkness ([Isa 9:2](#) and [Mat 4:16-17](#)).
- In what way does the following quote express the hope we have in our true Light?

Leaders, teachers, thinkers, speak and work for a season, and then fall silent and impotent. He abides. They die, but He lives. They are lights kindled, and therefore, sooner or later quenched, but He is the true Light from which they draw all their brightness, and He shines for forevermore. -Alexander Maclaren

- What does it take to worship God as He desires ([John 4:23-24](#) and [Psa 119:130](#))?
- To keep the light of hope alive in our minds and hearts, how often should we be in His Word ([Exo 27:20](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: My Light

Consider how Christ is your light.

<i>The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? (Psa 27:1)</i>	What fears do you have? How can the Lord address your fears?
<i>Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The Lord will be a light to me. (Micah 7:8)</i>	What darkness are you experiencing in life? How can God remove the darkness?

Application Exercise: Light Prayers

- Pray, telling God about your fears. Pray **Psalm 27:1** to God, claiming His light in your life.
- Pray, telling God about the darkness in your life. Pray **Micah 7:8** to Him, claiming His light in your life.

4-Light of the World

Scripture: [John 1:1-9](#)

Icebreaker: Sources of Light

Make a list of sources of light. (ex. electricity).

Discussion Questions: True Light

- What is the true Light ([John 1:9](#))? How do you know this Light applies to all people groups ([Isa 49:6](#))?

- Consider [John 9:5](#).
 - ▶ While Jesus is not in the world, who is light for the world ([Mat 5:14-16](#) and [Php 2:15](#))?
 - ▶ What is the role of Christ-followers in bringing light to the world ([John 1:7-8](#) and [Luke 12:8](#))?

- What does it mean to walk in the light ([1John 1:5-10](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: What Light Does

Reflect on three things that light does. Write an example of how light has affected you in each of the three ways.

Psa 119:130 John 3:21	Makes things clear	
John 5:35 Psa 89:15	Uplifts	
1Pet 2:9 Rom 13:12	Saves	

Application Exercise: You are the Light of the World

- In what way are Christ's disciples lights of the world (**Mat 5:14-16** and **Php 2:15**)?
- If you are a Christ-follower, review where you spent your time, talents, and treasures in the past year.
 - ▶ Make a list of what you did to be a light of the world.
 - ▶ Make a list of personal commitments for the coming year that will help you be a light of the world.



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