

BEING THE LIGHT

A Got Questions Ministries Mini Bible Study

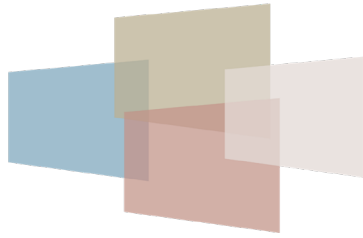


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How to Use This Mini Bible Study

Welcome to the Got Questions Ministries Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!

In these studies you will find content questions to grow your understanding, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

have eternal life through Him.

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





Lesson 1: BEING THE LIGHT

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5



Read the verse above. What does it reveal about God and the connection to light?



What is light, and what effects does light have?



What does it mean that God is light and that in Him there is no darkness at all?



In what specific areas of your life or the world would you like to see God's light shining?



Spend some time praying and praising God that He is light and that in Him there is no darkness. Pray for areas where there is currently darkness in your life or in the world where you would like His light to shine brightly!



Lesson 2:

BEING THE LIGHT

*Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,*

*who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter.*

Isaiah 5:20



Read the verse above. What does it reveal about light?



Compare and contrast the different elements found in Isaiah 5:20 (evil vs. good, darkness vs. light, bitter vs. sweet).



From <https://www.gotquestions.org/meaning-of-woe.html>

*Woe means “grief, anguish, affliction, wretchedness, calamity, or trouble.” The **Dictionary of Bible Themes** categorizes the uses of the word woe in the Bible: “Woe as an exclamation of judgment on others,” “Woe as an exclamation of misfortune on oneself,” “Woe as an exclamation of sadness over others,” and “Woe may give way to forgiveness, comfort, and deliverance” (Manser, M., ed., Zondervan, 1999).*

Why would God pronounce a woe on those who commit the actions listed in Isaiah 5:20?



In what ways does God’s character impact His response to evil, darkness, and bitterness?



How has God demonstrated goodness, light, and sweetness in your own life?



Reflect on your response to evil, darkness, and bitterness. Does it reflect God's character and heart? Repent of ways that you have allowed ungodly thinking to shape your response to evil, darkness, and bitterness. Praise God for who He is and His goodness, light, and sweetness.



Lesson 3:

BEING THE LIGHT

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:4-5

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12



Read the verses above. What do they reveal about being the light?



What are the connections between life and light both physically and spiritually?



In what ways did Jesus bring the life that is the light of the world?



From <https://www.bibleref.com/John/8/John-8-12.html>

This incident occurs during the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. Jesus has already used festival rituals as analogies for His role as Messiah (John 7:37–38). As part of this major festival, lamps would be lit using wicks made from priestly garments. In addition, light was a powerful metaphor in Hebrew thinking (Psalm 84:11; Malachi 4:2). “Light,” for the Jewish person, was the ultimate ideal, a representation of salvation, knowledge, and goodness. For Jesus to claim to be the “light of the world” was no small thing. In fact, it is a claim to equality with God. Even further, the Greek of this passage indicates Jesus’ claim to be “the” light, not merely “a” light. In the text’s original Greek, Christ says “Egō eimi to phos tou kosmou,” which explicitly claims He is the single, solitary source of “light.”

Those who follow Christ, in truth, may stumble into darkness, but they will never perpetually “walk” in it (John 12:46; Psalm 36:9).

How does having the light of the world connect with not walking in darkness?



God calls us to live in the light. Is there anything sinful in your life that God is calling you to set aside so you can walk in the light instead of in darkness? Repent of anything that comes to mind, and ask the Lord to help you “walk in the light as he is in the light” (1 John 1:7).



Lesson 4:

BEING THE LIGHT

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3:19-21



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about being the light?



What are some people's responses to the light? Why does the world prefer to live in darkness? What should be believers' responses to the light?



What does it look like to live in darkness versus coming to the light?



How do you come into the light? What are some things that keep you from coming to the light?



What do the following verses reveal about living in the light?

Psalm 36:9:

Psalm 119:105:

Psalm 119:130:

John 12:46:

1 John 1:5-10:



The light exposes our deeds, words, motives, etc. It confronts us so we can see where we are aligned with God's Word and will. How willing are you to come to the Lord, to the light? If there is anything keeping you in the darkness, recognize that it is not from the Lord, and it is not best. Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you need His light to shine in your life.



Lesson 5:

BEING THE LIGHT

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:13-25



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about living by the Spirit that brings clarity to being the light?



What is the connection between living in the flesh and living in darkness?



What is the connection between living in the Spirit and being the light?



In which areas of living by the Spirit would you like to grow in so you can better be the light?



Reflect on the ways in which God is growing fruit in your life, specifically focusing on the difference of living in the flesh and living in the Spirit. Praise Him for what He is doing. Pray that He would help you recognize His work in your life as He helps you shine more brightly for Him in this world. What are some of the practices you are doing to intentionally keep in step with the Spirit? This week, focus on keeping in step with the work He is doing!



Lesson 6:

BEING THE LIGHT

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:12-16



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about being the light?



What is the connection between the way God calls us to live and being a light in this world?



For what purpose are we called to be a light in this world?



From <https://www.gotquestions.org/fear-and-trembling.html>

The sense in which we are to work out our salvation in fear and trembling is twofold. First, the Greek verb rendered “work out” means “to continually work to bring something to completion or fruition.” We do this by actively pursuing obedience in the process of sanctification, which Paul explains further in the next chapter of Philippians. He describes himself as “straining” and “pressing on” toward the goal of Christlikeness (Philippians 3:13-14). The “trembling” he experiences is the attitude Christians are to have in pursuing this goal—a healthy fear of offending God through disobedience and an awe and respect for His majesty and holiness. “Trembling” can also refer to a shaking due to weakness, but this is a weakness of higher purpose, one which brings us to a state of dependency on God. Obedience and submission to the God we revere and respect is our “reasonable service” (Romans 12:1-2) and brings great joy. Psalm 2:11 sums it up perfectly: “Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.” We work out our salvation by going to the very source of our salvation—the Word of God—wherein we renew our hearts and minds (Romans 12:1-2), coming into His presence with a spirit of reverence and awe.

How does Philippians 2:12-16 challenge, convict, or encourage you in the way you are living and working out your salvation?



The way we live in this world matters. We get to reflect who God is and what He has done to a world of darkness. Where in your life would you like the light of Christ to shine? Spend some time praying for these areas and ask the Lord to help you continue to work out your salvation so you can shine brightly for Him.



Lesson 7:

BEING THE LIGHT

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about being the light?



What does it mean to be the light of the world?



How can we be a light to those around us, practically speaking?



We are a light to the world that points to THE Light of the world. God wants people to know Him and no longer walk in darkness but in light. Pray that He would help you to have a heart that wants to shine brightly for Him so others would come to know and love Him too. Thank Him that He is the Light of the world.



Wrap Up

Now that you have studied seven lessons on being the light, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



How has your understanding of being the light changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study?



What will you change in your life as a result of this study?



Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of being the light? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?