

## Message-based Study

Video is available online at [messages.visitccc.com](http://messages.visitccc.com)

### **Connection**

Think of a time when being in a well-lit place felt good to you - or - being in a dark location felt bad to you. Describe that situation.

### **Cheer and Challenge**

How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.

Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

### **Content**

***We have this great purpose: To shine light into this dark world until we die.  
As believers, we are attached to a far greater power source, which enables us to light up.***

### ***The Source: Jesus***

1. Jesus is described as "the Word" and "the Light" in John 1:4-5. Read these verses and, in your own words, sum up what they say about Jesus.
2. Read John 8:12. What does Jesus provide for those who follow Him as they walk through this life? Elaborate on this, describing what is this like in your own life.

### ***Three Ways You Can Show Light:***

#### ***A. You can shine light on GOD'S MERCY***

3. Read Isaiah 49:6. From what you know of the Old Testament, why do you think Isaiah spoke these words?
4. Paul later reiterates this prophecy in Acts 13:47. What do you think Paul was trying to convey to the people when he restated this prophecy? (Read verses 44-49 to understand the context.)

## **B. You can shine light on GOD'S GOODNESS**

6. In Isaiah 60:1-2 the prophet is urging us to rise up and *be* the light of God in this dark world. List some things that make this world a dark place right now.

7. In I Peter 2:9-10 several titles are given to believers. Do you ever think of yourself as a "royal priest"? What do you think this title means? What would it look like for you to live as a "royal priest... showing others the goodness of God"?

## **C. You can shine light on GOD'S ABILITY**

8. Read Psalm 145 out loud and, as you read, write a few phrases that are meaningful to you here:

9. List several ways you have seen God's mercy, goodness and ability demonstrated in your life:

## **Commitment**

Read Matthew 5:14-16. Consider where God has placed you. Realize that you are strategically placed there "on a stand" for God's purposes. Where are the places you find yourself in the course of a week? List them here:

Now go back over the list and rate yourself from 1-10 on how well you are shining a light on God's goodness, God's mercy and God's ability in each of these specific places.

Choose **one of these places** and **one specific way** you would like to shine light in that place this week.

"I will \_\_\_\_\_."



**Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.**

**Sharing your story** doesn't always involve reciting your entire testimony to someone. It may just be a simple word spoken about how God has shown His mercy, goodness or ability in your life. What is something you have seen Him do recently in your life which you could mention to someone who doesn't yet know Jesus?

## **Continue Digging Deeper**

1. We experience light in creation and nature. We also see light in the various inventions in our homes, workplaces and in the community that light up the darkness. From the list below, choose a way to experience light each day.

- Watch the sunrise and read Lamentation 3:22-24.
- Light a candle and read Psalm 119:105.
- Sit around a fire and sing songs about God's mercy, goodness and ability. Pray, thanking Him for all He has done. If you are able, invite your neighbors, friends or family to join you.
- Sit outside on a sunny day. Read Psalm 136:1-9. Thank God for all He has created.

2. Light can be so small and yet light up the room. Describe a time when you experienced bright lights. Can you describe a time when you were in the dark (physically or spiritually)? Compare and contrast the difference between dark and light. How does this help you connect to Jesus' statement that He is the light of the world?

**Reflect:** Are there things in your life or in your environment that seek to "dim" your light (i.e., personal sin, fear, busyness, going along with the crowd, being tired, experiencing hurt, etc.).

**Read:** Matthew 5:14-16 and write down what stands out to you. Jesus wants His people to shine brightly and draw others into our lives.

**Illustrate:** Draw a light bulb. Inside the light bulb and even outside the light bulb, write down ideas of how you can be the light in your home, at work, in the community, etc. Write out Matthew 5:16 somewhere on your drawing.

3. C.S. Lewis said,

"Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that through you others can see Him."

Consider how you can demonstrate goodness God. What does it look like to do good towards others? Read the article listed to gather some ideas. Choose 1-2 ideas and live them out this week. For further reflection, consider is the good that you do based on God's standards or on the cultural standards? How can you reflect God's goodness instead of just trying to "be good"?

**Resource:** <https://www.gotquestions.org/fruit-Holy-Spirit-goodness.html>

4. Shining light through our lifestyle and life-giving words allows us to reflect God's goodness.

**Listen:** Find a quiet spot and listen to this song, "God is so good" by Pat Barrett. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCwxqgLkog&list=RD\\_mCwxqgLkog&start\\_radio=1&t=188](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCwxqgLkog&list=RD_mCwxqgLkog&start_radio=1&t=188)

**Pray:** *Praise* the Lord for His goodness, *thank* Him for the good gifts He has given you and *ask* Him to help you do good to all.

**Repeat:** Instead of just doing this once this week, consider starting each day or ending each day with this time of worship and read Galatians 6:9 asking God to strengthen you to do good to those around you.