



Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

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Gospel: The Followers

May 1, 2011

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SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:4

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Isaiah 9:1-2

¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

ENGAGE

What does our walk with Jesus really mean to us? (We are new people once we submit to Him and accept Him as Lord of our lives)

DISCUSS

- 1) Have you ever been in total darkness before? For instance when the power goes out at night or being inside a cave. Describe the feelings and sensations when you are in the dark. How did you feel once light was restored?
- 2) What would it be like if God removed Himself from the world and give Satan full reign? Would that be the kind of place you'd want to live?
- 3) Jesus is Light in the Darkness. Apart from God our hearts are dark. Even though we are followers of Christ that sin nature pulls at us, giving us dark thoughts and feelings. Are you experiencing darkness at this time? Share with the group some the struggles you go through. In what ways can we clear the darkness and let the light overcome the dark?
- 4) Jesus is Rain in the Desert. As humans we seem to an un-quenching thirst for "things". No matter how much we acquire it never seems to be enough. Have you ever stopped to think about why never seemed to be satisfied? What are some "things" in your life that you have to have? Have they satisfied you or do you find yourself waiting for the next latest and greatest model?
- 5) What are some ways we can begin to let go of our desires for more. What are some ways we can have our thirst for more quenched?
- 6) Jesus is Shelter in the Storm. What storms of your life have you seen Jesus comfort you? Have you ever witnessed someone who seems to have lost everything but seems fine with what was going on? How did that make you feel? Do you know how you'd handle the situation if you experience a "storm" in your life?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Define what it means to follow Jesus in your terms. Does it align biblically? Seek out the things you struggle with, write them down and give them God through prayer. Find ways we can help others we see struggling with similar issues.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Ask the children what they would do if they were caught in total darkness. (find a flashlight, light a candle, bring in some way to introduce light) Explain that we are fallen humans that have sin in our lives that Jesus is the light that can dispel the darkness.

Ask them if they could only have one thing (materialistic) what would it be. After they answer provide a scenario where a newer better item came out, and so on and so on. Explain to them that our desire to want more and more will never be satisfied, but that if they can rely on Jesus as their one true desire that contentment with what they have will follow.

Have the kids talk about a time in their life when things weren't going the way they wanted. (you may have to prompt a response; school, home, friends) Let them know that no matter what hardships life throws them that Jesus is there to comfort them and be a Shelter in times of need.

OTHER PASSAGES

Corinthians 5:17

John 3:19

John 8:12

Isaiah 35:1-2; 5-6

John 7:37-38

Psalm 55:6-8