

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

## Sunday Morning

Study 12

*I am the Light of the World*

# Light of the World

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** To demonstrate to the students that it is only by walking in the light of Christ that our eyes can be opened to truth.

## Key Verses

John 9:1-7—Main Teaching Passage

John 8:12

Psalm 119:105

Ephesians 5:14

John 1:4-5

**Memory Verse** - John 20:31 (October Memory Verse)

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

## Hook

Take the blindfold provided on the cart and place it over the eyes of one of the students. Ask the student to walk around the room (make sure the child is safe as you do so).

Ask for a second volunteer. Have the student walk the same route that the first student did, this time NOT wearing the blindfold. Ask the class if they think it is better to walk in the darkness or in the light.

Read John 8:12: "Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness."

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

Our Name of God for this week's study is in John 8:12, where Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows Me shall never walk in darkness." After making that statement, the next chapter shows us what it means that Jesus is the Light of the World. In John 9:1-7, Jesus and His disciples encountered a blind man. The disciples brought the man before Jesus and asked why the man was being punished. Was it because of his own sin, or was it the sin of his parents? Christ responded that God was not punishing this man at all. Neither he nor his parents have done something to cause this blindness. He was blind so that God could be glorified.

Jesus then made the statement again, "I am the light of the world," took mud, and places it over the man's eyes. After he washed the mixture from his eyes in the pool of Siloam, the man returned completely healed from his blindness. A man who quite literally was "walking in darkness" could now see and walk in the light because He met Jesus. The statement, "I am the Light of the World," should be read in conjunction with John 1:4-5. Jesus is Life, that Life is the Light of men, but that Light was not understood.

# LOOK

Have you ever been half asleep lying in bed and looked over into the corner of the room and seen something that wasn't actually there? In the dark you see a shape, and your mind imagines some awful thing. When you jump up and turn on the light, however, what looked like a stranger or a monster in your room was actually just a basketball, two sweatshirts, and your backpack hanging from your door handle. When it was dark, you couldn't see clearly, and so you acted on bad information. You were afraid because you didn't actually know the truth about what you were seeing. As soon as the light came on, you saw the truth and were no longer afraid. You were able to respond in the right way because you really understood the situation.

Ephesians 5:14 says that our lives before knowing Christ are just like that. It says that we need to "wake up" from out of our sleep and Christ will give us light. When Jesus made the statement, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness," He was making a bold promise to us. He was telling us that if we follow Him, He will reveal the truth to us. He will open our eyes to all of the things that we think and do in error. Just as in today's story Jesus opened the blind man's eyes, when we believe in Him, He opens our eyes to the truth.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK (Continued)

Life without Christ is just like our unfortunate volunteer who had to walk around the room with a blindfold on. It's difficult and causes us to trip, stumble, and fall. It might even cause us serious harm. Because we can't see the dangers that are in front of us, we walk where we shouldn't and get ourselves in trouble. Following Christ is like taking off a blindfold. He promises us that He will open our eyes to truth and allow us to walk in the fullness of life.

One of the ways that He accomplishes that is through the Bible. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." That is one of the reasons why we are memorizing Scripture in class. Someday in the future, when you are faced with a difficult decision or problem, God's Word can guide you.

Another way that Jesus gives us light is by giving us the Holy Spirit. John 16:13 says, "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." Jesus promises us that He will guide us through the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. He promises that we will not walk in darkness. He uses the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to lead us guide us in all truth.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the students what it means that Jesus is the Light. How does He show us truth? Ask about how God uses the Bible to show us truth.

**Pray:** Thank the Lord that He gives us light and truth. Ask Him to do the work that He promised to do in us, leading us through His Word and through the Holy Spirit. Praise Him for opening our eyes to the truth.

**Parent Question:** Who shows us the truth? How can we find this truth?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on John 9:1-12 by David Guzik

### *John 9 - Jesus Gives Sight to A Man Born Blind*

A. The man is healed.

1. (1-2) The disciples ask a question.

Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

a. **Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?** The disciples regarded this man as an unsolved riddle; but Jesus regarded him as a suffering person needing relief.

b. We often suspect that where there is a more than ordinary sufferer, there is a more than ordinary sinner; the disciples believed this to be so to the extent that they wondered if this man was a most remarkable sinner - one who personally sinned before he was born!

2. (3-5) Jesus responds to the question, without answering it.

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

a. **Neither this man nor his parents sinned:** Jesus' response was "I'm not here to answer such questions, but to do the work of God in alleviating such suffering while I can."

i. This is an answer consistent with the spirit of the book of Job. Sometimes, God intentionally leaves us without knowledge regarding the source or reason behind pain.

b. It is possible that John 9:3 could be punctuated like this: "... **nor his parents sinned. But that the works of God should be revealed in him, I must work . . .**"

c. Why do such bad things happen? Generally, because we live in a fallen world, a world willing to serve Satan and sin.

d. **While it is day:** If we neglect our opportunities for service, they may be lost forever.

3. (6-7) The man is healed.

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

a. **He spat . . . and He anointed the eyes:** In this miracle, Jesus took all the initiative. The blind man did not

come to Jesus and ask to be healed, Jesus came to Him. Still, He expected the blind man to respond in faith (**Go, wash in the pool of Siloam**).

b. **So he went and washed, and came back seeing:** This was a completely unique miracle in the Scriptures. From Genesis to John, no prophet, priest, or apostle ever gave sight to blind eyes but Jesus did this type of healing more than any other miracle.

i. Since healing blind eyes is the work of the Lord, Yahweh, Jehovah, it shows that Jesus is God: *The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.* (Psalm 146:8)

ii. Opening the eyes of the blind was a specific work of the Messiah: *The eyes of the blind shall be opened.* (Isaiah 35:5)

c. **Made clay with the saliva:** Why did Jesus use clay and spit? Jesus often varied His methods of healing so they could never be "formularized." As well, we can see that Jesus is using the dust of the ground and clay to do a work of creation in man, just like in Genesis.

d. Not many people would appreciate having mud made with spit rubbed in their eyes. Some would look at how Jesus did this miracle and object, saying that it was offensive, inadequate, or even harmful to rub mud made with spit in a man's eyes.

i. In the same way, some feel that the gospel is *offensive*. It is true that it offends man's pride and human wisdom, but *it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.* (1 Corinthians 1:21)

ii. In the same way, some feel that the gospel is *inadequate*. But have all the psychiatric and political and social programs in the world done more good than the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ?

iii. In the same way, some feel that the gospel is *harmful*, that the free offer of grace in Jesus will cause people to sin that grace may abound. But the gospel changes our life for the good and the pure, not unto wickedness.

B. The controversy surrounding the healing.

1. (8-12) The neighbors react to the healed man.

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." *Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."*

a. **Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he":** It seems too amazing to believe, but the man convinced them that he was in fact healed from congenital blindness.

b. **A man called Jesus:** At this point, the man knew very little about Jesus. He didn't know anything more about Jesus than His name, and that He healed him.