

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
3RD-5TH GRADE
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 15

I am the Light of the World



The 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 verse 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 1:4-5

Ephesians 5:8-14

1 John 1:5-7

Psalms 119:105

Memory Verse - Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths."

Hook

Review last weeks memory verse, Matthew 16:26.

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. Have a good laugh with them as they try to navigate the room, being careful that no harm comes to them.

Ask for a second volunteer. Have the student walk the same route that the first student did, this time NOT wearing the blindfold.

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

While our focus in this weeks study is on John 8:12, our context for this verse is found in the following chapter, John 9:1-7. After making the statement, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness," Jesus was presented with 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 had done anything to cause this blindness. Christ then made the statement again, "I am the light of the world," took mud, and placed 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. 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.

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

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 in your room or some horrible monster was actually just a basketball, two sweatshirts, and your back pack hanging from your door.

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 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 makes the statement, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness," He is making a bold promise to us. He is 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.

Life without Christ is just like our unfortunate volunteer who had to walk around the room with a blindfold on. It is difficult. It causes us to trip, stumble and fall. It might even cause us serious harm. Because we

LOOK (Continued)

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: so that 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, and He uses the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to lead us into 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

As a class, memorize Proverbs 3:5-6.

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.

Family Question: In what ways has the Word of God been "a lamp to your feet and a light to your path"?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 9 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.

2. (13-16) The healed man is brought to the Pharisees.

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

a. **Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes:** Jesus took the initiative in this miracle, and could have done it on any day He chose. Then why did Jesus do this miracle on the Sabbath? Jesus did this to challenge the petty traditions of the religious leader, traditions that they elevated to the place of binding laws.

b. **Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath":** To the Pharisees, Jesus could not be from God because He did not line up with their traditions and prejudices.