



October 27, 2019

Connection Resource

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 2:9-10

Connection Leader: The passages of Scripture below are provided to expand on the concepts presented in the Pastor's message on Sunday. I encourage you to read them and familiarize yourself with the content prior to class. There are many ways to use these passages during your group time. Here's a suggestion:



BLUE LETTER BIBLE

The Blue Letter Bible is an online resource that provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of the Bible. It can be accessed online at blueletterbible.org, or through a convenient App that is free on the App Store. With Blue Letter Bible, you can dig deep into the Word using the Lexicon (to examine words in the original language), Concordance (to examine other related verses), encyclopedias, commentaries, maps, and much more. (See the BLB handout for specific instructions).

There are four topics to discover and discuss with your group. It will be difficult to cover all of them thoroughly, so I encourage you to focus on the areas that appeal or apply to your group in particular. Take a cursory look at some passages while going deeper into other's. Allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide in this matter and follow where He leads. Encourage your group to use the *Bible Study Resource* to continue pursuing God during the week.

Called To Shine

He has "...called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 1:9b

As sojourners, Peter encourages us with a metaphor of darkness and light. It is a familiar image we find throughout the Old and New Testament. Let's examine this metaphor together and discover how walking in the light forever changes us.

Isaiah 60:1, Philippians 2:15, John 3:19-21

As Christians, we are called to shine in a dark world. We shine, not because of who we are, but because of who God is. When you shine, you bring attention to God and to the work He is doing in you; and in shining, you glorify Him. As you consider together the nature of God's light, use the Blue Letter Bible to examine the metaphor of "light" in the original language from John 3:19.

As you consider the metaphor of light, discuss How God's light is reflected in you as you live and work in a dark world.

1. What does the world see in you that is different?
2. What does the world see in you that is appealing?
3. How do you reflect the work God is doing in you?
4. Do your words and actions glorify God, or do they point to your own accomplishments?

Called To Overcome

Proverbs 4:18, 1 John 1:5-7, John 1:4-5, Romans 13:12

Divide into four groups and assign the four passages above. Identify the things God provides that enable us to overcome the darkness.

Using the Blue Letter Bible, consider John 1:5 in the original language. Then consider the following questions:

1. What is the relationship between darkness and light?
2. How are you overcoming the darkness in your life?
3. How do you keep sin from dimming your reflection of God to others?

Called To Understand

Psalm 36:9, Psalm 119:130, 2 Corinthians 4:6

Read the three passages together and discuss how the light of God produces understanding in those who believe. Then examine 2 Corinthians 4:6 in the original language in the Blue Letter Bible. What is "the knowledge of the glory of God?"

God's light reveals truth that enables us to understand what would otherwise be shrouded in mystery. In His light, we see and understand the things of God with a fresh perspective. As you consider this truth, discuss the following questions together.

1. How is God's light changing your perspective on the darkness that lingers in you?
2. As you study the Bible, how does it clarify your understanding of God? And how does your knowledge of Him change how you see yourself?
3. How does God's light help you to get through difficult times?

Called To Change

Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:7-10, Psalm 37:4, Philippians 2:13

Read the passages together, and discuss the following questions:

1. How does His light affect your attitude as you go about your day?
2. How does it affect your attention? Are you focused on the light, or are you distracted by the darkness?
3. As you shine for Him, what do others see in you?

Living in the light of God's truth changes everything. As you gaze into His marvelous light, He shapes your desire to match His; and He molds your will to conform with His plan. Consider the passages in Psalms and Philippians, and discuss how His light enables you and changes you so you can perfectly reflect His will.