

walking in The Light

1 John 1:5-10

MEMORY VERSE

1 JOHN 1:7

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

One or two powerful flashlights.

Several white, yellow and black pieces of construction paper, masking tape, chalk and a marker.

Several small mirrors, clean cloths (or paper towels) and glass cleaner.

ATTENTION GETTER!

In the Light

Ask the kids if they think that they can walk in the light. You will need one or two powerful flashlights for this activity. Dim the lights in your classroom (turn them off if the children are old enough to not be afraid). Make sure to have your flashlight on before turning the lights off.

Have all of the kids crowd into the light. If you have too many kids use two flashlights simultaneously, or just let one or two kids try this at a time. Begin to move the lights around slowly, then a little faster and a little faster. Tell the children that they have to stay in the light wherever it is.

After the activity, ask the kids what they had to look at in order to stay in the light. Did they look at the light or at the darkness? All they had to do is look at the light. It is the same with the Lord. Just keep looking at Him and His Word and since He is the true Light, stay close to Him.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever thought about why bad guys want to do all of their bad things at night or in the darkness? They hope that by doing the bad things in the darkness that they somehow won't get caught. But God sees everything and knows everything that is done in the darkness. In fact, in this lesson we are going to learn that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

On the island of Alcatraz there used to be a prison. The buildings are still there, but it is no longer a prison. Deep inside the prison there are rooms which were used for solitary confinement. This is where they would put the worst of the criminals who stayed there that wouldn't obey even the prison rules.

If you were to go there and go into one of these rooms and shut the door, the room would be pitch black. There are no windows and no cracks under the door to allow any light to come in. You can't even see your hand in front of your face it is so dark. But if you were to turn on a flashlight then the darkness would immediately flee. Even the most powerful darkness is no match to light. Darkness can never overpower light, but light can always overpower darkness.

John encourages us to walk in the light as God is in the light. How is your walk? As we walk in this world we need to have God's light in order to see our way through the darkness. **God wants us to walk in His light.**

1 JOHN 1:5

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

John is writing about things he had heard, seen and touched (1 John 1:1). Here he begins with something he heard. Now John was one of the 12 apostles, and he recorded in his gospel that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Jesus also said, "If you have seen Me then you have seen the Father." So to get a better understanding of who God is and how He is light we only need to look at Jesus.

In this verse John describes God as light, and light exposes the darkness. So as light, God exposes man's darkness or sin. Also, as light, God provides the answer to sin and its dark ways. We only have to look to the light of God's glorious gospel in order to be freed from the darkness of sin. **God wants us to walk in His light.**

1 JOHN 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Since God is light, it makes sense that a Christian cannot truly claim to have fellowship with God while living in darkness. John knew that sometimes people will say they are Christians while they are engaging in acts of disobedience. A Christian who says they are in fellowship with God (who is light) but are disobeying Him (walking in darkness) is lying both in their words and in their actions (1 John 2:4).

Light and darkness cannot coexist. There will either be one or the other. What really matters is not what we say, but what is in our heart. If God's light is truly shining in our hearts then our actions will be different. We will be a changed person, no longer wanting to practice the works of darkness. **God wants us to walk in His light.**

1 JOHN 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John urges us to walk in the light just as God is in the light and then we will have fellowship with one another. John's point is that if Christians live in the light, as God is in the light, there is mutual fellowship between God and Christians.

One of the interesting things about light is that it helps us to see things. We may not understand some of the things about sin or our sinful heart apart from God's light. It's a great way to continually check our hearts for any darkness. We can ask ourselves the question, "Does God's light fill every crevice and area of my heart? Or are there some areas that have not yet been exposed to His light?" Then, once He shows us those areas, we can allow Him to help us in dealing with them. **God wants us to walk in His light.**

How is Your Walk?

Cut out 12 or more shoe shaped footprints from white or yellow paper. Write "right" on these and place in a footstep pattern (right, left, right, left) with a small piece of rolled masking tape on the bottom so they won't slip when stepped on. Cut out 24 shoe-shaped footprints from black construction paper. Write "wrong" on these with chalk or a white pencil. Tape these along each side of the "right" path.

Let each child try to walk the path staying on the “right” footprints. If they stumble or lose their balance, this is fine.

When everyone has tried, the teacher may demonstrate the three “walks.” Jesus had a perfect walk (never stepping on the “wrong”). The Christian walks mostly on the “right” path, but sometimes will stumble or lose balance and step on the “wrong.” And the path of the disobedient is stepping only on the “wrong” path and nothing else.

1 JOHN 1:8

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

When a believer is in true fellowship with God he may be tempted to think or say that he is free from sin. John warns us against this in this verse; that if we say that we have no sin, than we deceive ourselves and the truth isn't in us. All of us sin, even Christians. When we sin it just means that we're not perfect. We will stumble, but then we need to get back on the right path again. None of us is perfect except for God. **God wants us to walk in His light.**

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In view of verse 8, Christians should always be ready at all times to acknowledge any failure which God's light may expose in them. John wrote that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What does it mean to confess our sin? Confession literally means, “to agree with.” So whenever we are confessing our sin to the Lord we are simply agreeing with something that He already knows. The problem for us sometimes is simply admitting that we are sinning or doing wrong.

Once we acknowledge our sin to the Lord, immediately He is faithful. What faithfulness means is that He will always be there and do what He says that He will do. We can depend on Him. So, if He says that He will forgive us of our sins, then we can count on the fact that we are forgiven.

Then this verse says that He will “cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Isn’t it exciting that He is the one that does the cleansing and not us? If it were up to me to cleanse myself of unrighteousness, then I would be a big mess. But He cleanses us from all of our sins. That also means that once we are cleansed that those sins are gone forever, never to return.

Whenever you wash your clothes, how many times do you go back and think about the dirt that is no longer there? In the same way we shouldn’t even think about those things that the Lord has cleansed out of our lives. The Bible says in Psalm 103 that the Lord has removed our sin from us as far as the east is from the west. That’s a long way!

1 JOHN 1:10

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

After a believer sins, he should not deny that he has sinned, because if we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar and His Word isn’t in us. God says that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God but because of what Jesus did by dying for us our sins are forgiven. God cleanses us and we no longer have to live in the darkness of sin.

Thank the Lord for His glorious light! Without His light we would all be stuck in the darkness of our sin. God loves us so much that He made a way that we could see His light in the form of His Son, Jesus. As we look to Jesus, we understand the Father better. Then we can look into our own hearts and ask the Lord to allow His light to expose any darkness and then to help us to continue to walk in the light every day. **God wants us to walk in His light.**

A Christian’s Soap

Bring several small mirrors, clean cloths and glass cleaner to class. Make sure that the mirrors are dirty (milk or toothpaste flicked onto them and allowed to dry works great). Let the kids clean the mirrors over and over.

This demonstrates 1 John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Just like the dirty mirror, we will sometimes sin. But God will forgive us when we confess our sins to Him.

OPTIONAL: For older children you can bring enough bars of soap to allow the children to carve into them “1 John 1:9.” This is a messy project, but fun. Make sure to bring enough utensils for the children to carve with if you decide to do this one.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to walk in God’s light. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.