



**Turn “The Light” On!
Leader Guide – June 14, 2020**

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 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, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.
¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 1:5-2:2 NIV)

ICE BREAKER

Is anyone in your group afraid of the dark? If so, share why!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) John opens up this section of his letter with clarity about the message he is proclaiming -> “God is Light.” What does John mean when he says God is Light? Why is this important to be able to understand the passage?

- God is Light -> representative of God’s power and glory // also of His purity, holiness, and righteousness
- When we view God correctly, we are able to see ourselves correctly. It also allows us to respond to God correctly – bring out darkness to Him and allowing Him to “chase it out and purify it”

2) Even though God is Light, as sinful people we naturally drift toward darkness. Andrew outlined three basic ways we do this. What were they? How are you prone to walk in darkness?

- We claim to not sin -> When we claim to not sin, we are calling God a liar (vs. 10) and are saying we don’t need the salvation of Jesus (The Light). This causes us to go further and further into darkness.
- We “believe” but don’t surrender -> We might “believe the facts” about Jesus, but we don’t ever surrender to Him as Lord. Simply knowing the facts about Jesus isn’t what pulls us from darkness, it is complete trust/surrender to Him as Lord. He is either both our Savior/Lord or neither.
- We are casual about sin -> We abuse grace. We use lines such as “Yeah, I love Jesus but...I’m a little rough around the edges.” We cannot simultaneously follow Jesus and embrace that which He died to end. Yes, we are covered by grace – but we have died to sin! (Romans 6:2)

3) The way we turn The Light on in our life is to confess -> repent -> repeat. Why is this so important? How do we do this?

- Confess -> We confess our sins both to God (vs. 9) and others (James 5:16). This is where we “name and claim our sin.” It’s not because God doesn’t know what we did, it’s so we can see our sin in The Light.
- Repent -> Naming and claiming, even though the first step, is not the full process – we also have to turn away from our sin and run to God, doing whatever it takes to get to Him (Acts 3:19)
- Repeat -> Even though we are eternally secure after our initial confess/repent/surrender, we are still called to confess and repent of our sin after salvation. See John 13:8-10 for Jesus’ explanation.

4) John gives us three incredible benefits of living in The Light? What were they? How does this help reframe our thinking about living in The Light?

- Forgiveness of sin -> When we confess our sin, God forgives us comprehensively (vs. 7, 9)
- Fellowship with one another -> We are able to have fellowship with God but also with others! (vs. 7)
- Jesus as our Advocate -> We have a Divine Defense Attorney who forever has our back at the right hand of the Father (vs. 2:1)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1) What areas in your life do you need to “turn The Light on”? What do you need to confess (to God and others) and repent of? How can your group help pray for you and move you towards reconciliation?

2) Light’s purpose is to chase out the darkness. Where is God calling you to take The Light and chase out darkness?