

life groups' study guide



Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for spiritual growth, caring for one another, and reaching out to others.

Yellow + Red = ORANGE

Light of the World

WHO DOES JESUS SAY HE IS?

The 7 I AM's of Jesus

1. I am the bread of life – John 6:35.
2. I am the light of the world – John 8:12.
3. I am the door – John 10:9.
4. I am the good shepherd – John 10:11.
5. I am the resurrection and the life – John 11:25.
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6.
7. I am the true vine – John 15:1.

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE – JOHN 6:35.

1. Jesus said this in the last year of His ministry when proving His deity.
2. Jesus as bread satisfies the deepest hunger by people for God. *“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled”* (Matt. 5:6).
3. Jesus as bread overcomes the curse on Adam, *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread”* (Gen. 3:19). The cure of Christ, *“I am the living bread . . . if any man eats of this bread, he shall live”* (John 6:51).
4. Jesus as bread brings worship to God, a type of Old Testament bread offering to the Lord. *“He (the priest) took one unleavened cake . . . and left them on the altar of burnt-offering: they were consecrated for a sweet savor . . . unto the Lord”* (Lev. 8:26, 28).
5. Jesus as bread fulfills the type of the manna in the wilderness. *“Moses gave you not that bread from heaven, but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven”* (John 6:32).

We need bread, we need food. Just can't survive without it. But many people have full bellies... but they are still starving inside, spiritually, so hungry perhaps they don't even know it! You see, we are more than just flesh and blood. God made us more than just that! What is fascinating is Jesus never offers a philosophy or ideology to people.... Nor does he offer just great teaching - He offers Himself - HE is the answer.

Because in the end we don't need fancy talk- we need GOD. The person of God with us now. We need Him in our lives... and we need to know He cares. And to those hungry, spiritually... those who may have everything else sorted out, but still know there is... has to be... more - He says: - *"I am the bread of life."* So - today we remember the physical food we have. But we remember that we need spiritual

food as well - and Jesus is that food. *"I'm the bread of life. The person who believes in me will never die."* (John 6:58)

Q. By feasting on Jesus, what are we being strengthened to do ?

Q. Where and how does this "spiritual food" as "spiritual fuel" begin to evidence itself in our lives.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD – JOHN 8:12

Jesus looks around at the people come to celebrate this feast and he makes his second statement – I am the Light of the World. *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* (John 8:12) He is saying, I represent God's presence here on Earth, I am God, here on earth. And I have come to lead you out of your spiritual darkness And bring you to a place of light To free you from the blackness of sin, And illuminate your life with grace and truth."

Jesus replied, *"My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light."* John 12:35-36

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true." (Ephesians 5:1-9)

The Bible says that God is light. Intellectually that means the knowledge of God is light. Morally that means the holiness of God is light. Physically that means the glory of God is light. When Jesus says that we are the light of the world, it means God has deposited His nature inside of us, and we are to let it out. It's in there! It just needs to be allowed to shine forth. Christian, you aren't the only person ever called 'the light of the world.' Who else? Yes, other Christians, but who else? Jesus! So, Christ is in us, and we aren't really, in and of ourselves, the light, but the light is in us!

Four Things About The Light

The Power of the Light

Matthew 5:14-15- verse 14 is collective light...the church, but...verse 15 is individual light...single candles doing their part. Like moths to a flame, this world is drawn to the light...it's hard to resist...it's part of man's nature to seek out truth and fill the God shaped void in his heart.

The Places of the Light

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

The first Bible some people in your life will ever read will be the Bible of your life. The first sermon

they will ever hear will be a sermon in shoes...you! The only way they will get to know Jesus as the true light of the world is if they see that light reflected by you, and shining in you!

*"You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day
by the deeds that you do, by the words that you say
men read what you're writing, whether faithless or true
Hey, what is the gospel according to you?"*

(author unknown)

The Putting Out of the Light

Q. What bushels do we allow to snuff out our lights?

Probably dozens, but here's a couple: one applies to your walk, and the other to your talk.

Worldliness—unwillingness to be different, to be salt or light. We don't wanna be laughed at or thought of as strange...so, we follow the course of the world, and go with the flow, instead of heading upstream...taking a stand. That worldly attitude is a bushel that will snuff out your light.

Our talk: And fear is the bushel we allow to snuff out our witnessing opportunities. Let's take a survey and be honest and show how many of us have had open doors to witness, and even been prompted to by God's Spirit, but have caved in to fear. All of us!

The Purpose of the Light

Why do we do good works? So people will remark what a great Christian you are? No! The purpose of the light is not to glorify itself. You don't turn a light on to draw attention to the light, but to whatever it is shining on. The purpose of the light is to illuminate Jesus and to glorify the Father in heaven! The 'city set on a hill' is a collective term, indicating the church. We are to be a lighthouse on a hillside that overlooks a storm-tossed sea.

Q. How about it? Have the people in your life even found out you are saved? Work / family / neighbors / friends?

The Many Styles of Lights

Jerry Shirley

****The CHRISTMAS "Lights" Christians.....** Used only one time a year, Used only on a special occasion. These are More For Show than anything else. Some Christians come once a year or on Special Occasions.

****The FLASHING "Lights" Christians.....** These are On & Off - On & Off - On & Off. These have No Consistency. These Christians can't be counted on to get the job done.

****The FLASHLIGHT "Lights" Christians.....** Very useful in Times of Trouble but not all the time. Very Short Life of usefulness Begin to fade out slowly. These usually must be Hand-Held. These can be Made Brighter if you Shake them but not for long.

****The CANDLE "Lights" Christians.....** These are Affected by the Wind and may even go out. These are Good Inside in times of storm on the outside.

****The DIRTY "Lights" Christians.....** These have lost their effectiveness. The More the Dirt, the Less the Light. Dirt builds up over time. These need to be cleaned from time to time.

****The SPOT "Lights" Christians.....** These Concentrate Only on One Area, and do it well.

****The FLOOD "Lights" Christians.....** These Cover a Wide Area, with usually softer light

****The REFLECTIVE "Lights" Christians..... These Must Receive their Light from Another Source.**

****The BEACON "Lights" Christians..... These Warn of Danger and Guide the Traveler on his way...SOUL WINNERS**

Jesus light shines on us by...

Saving – Job 24:16; Ephesians 5:13-14; Psalm 27:1

Healing - John 9:5-7; Job 33:28; Job 12:22

Igniting – Isaiah 58: 8-10

Nudging – Psalm 43:3; Psalm 119:105

Educating – Psalm 19:8; Psalm 119:130

I John 1:7 (NIV) *“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.”*

Revelation 21: 23-24 (NIV) *“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of earth will bring their splendor into it.”*

