

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The Light That Exposes and Heals

Reading: *John 8:1-11*

When Jesus encountered the woman caught in adultery, He demonstrated that divine light does not destroy—it heals. Standing exposed before the most holy being in the universe should have meant condemnation, yet she found safety. This is the paradox of grace: when we bring our sin into Jesus' light, He covers it with His blood. But when we hide our failures in darkness, they remain to be judged. Today, consider what you've been hiding from God. Remember, confession doesn't inform Him of anything He doesn't already know—it positions you to receive the healing you desperately need. The safest place in the universe is standing fully exposed before Jesus.

Day 2: The Constant in an Ever-Changing World

Reading: *John 8:12; Hebrews 13:8*

Einstein discovered that light is the one constant in our universe—everything else is variable and relative. Jesus declared Himself the Light of the World, claiming to be the unchanging constant that holds all existence together. In a world where relationships fail, economies fluctuate, and circumstances shift, Jesus remains steadfast. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His promises don't expire. His love doesn't diminish. His power doesn't wane. When you feel overwhelmed by life's uncertainties, anchor yourself to the One who never changes. Let His constant presence illuminate your path forward. Whatever variables you're facing today, remember the constant—Jesus, the Light of the World.

Day 3: From Ichabod to Glory Restored

Reading: *Ezekiel 10:18-19; Luke 19:28-44*

For centuries, Israel lived under "Ichabod"—no glory. The divine presence had departed through the East Gate, ascending the Mount of Olives into heaven. The annual Feast of Tabernacles became a painful reminder of God's absent glory. But Jesus reversed Ezekiel's vision exactly. He descended the Mount of Olives, entered through the East Gate, and went directly to the Temple. The glory had returned. God's presence was no longer absent—He was standing among them in flesh and blood. Today, you may feel like God's glory has departed from your life, your family, or your circumstances. But Christ has come. His presence is available. The glory hasn't just returned—it lives within every believer through the Holy Spirit.

Day 4: Darkness Could Not Overcome

Reading: *John 1:1-5; Matthew 27:45-54; Matthew 28:1-10*

The greatest darkness in human history occurred when the Light of the World hung on a cross. At midday, unnatural darkness covered the land as sin's curse seemingly extinguished God's glory. Jesus was sealed in a cold, dark tomb—death's apparent victory. But Sunday morning shattered the darkness forever. The Light walked out of the grave at dawn, proving that no darkness—not sin, not death, not hell itself—can overcome God's light. Whatever darkness you're facing today, remember this: the same resurrection power that brought Jesus from the tomb is available to you. Your current darkness is not the end of your story. Sunday is coming.

Day 5: Shine Like Stars Forever

Reading: *Daniel 12:3; Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16*

You are not merely illuminated by the Light—you become light yourself. The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer. Jesus calls you the light of the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. This means living with integrity when no one's watching, courage when everyone opposes you, wisdom that gives yourself away for others, and hope that confuses people with its consistency. When you reflect Christ's light, you shine in a dark world, leading others to righteousness. Your faithful witness in suffering, your joy in hardship, your generosity in scarcity—these make you shine like stars in the universe. Today, ask yourself: where is God calling me to shine? Who needs to see Christ's light reflected through my life?

Deacons on Call

Johnny Davis and Ed Watson

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Resumes August 19
- **First Kids:** See you at VBS ... June 28-July 1
- **First Youth:** See Eric for summer schedule

SHINING A LIGHT ON WHO JESUS REALLY IS ILLUMINATION STATION™ JOHN 8:12

Verses we all
need to Memorize

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." **John 8:12 CSB**

June 28, 2026

Illumination Station

JOHN 8:12

Being scared of the dark is one of our most primal fears. A little light is very helpful in making us feel safe. One of the greatest declarations Jesus ever made concerning Himself was simply, "I am the Light of the World." What does that mean? Today we will explore this year's VBS theme to discover some wonderful truths.

A little historical background:

- John 7-8

The Feast of Tabernacles is the Feast of Booths, or in Hebrew, *Sukkot*

- Ezekiel 10

Ichabod: no glory

1. Light _____.

2. Light _____.

What does it mean to "never walk in darkness"?

1. Live with _____.

2. Live with _____.

3. Live with _____.

4. Live with _____.

Discussion Questions

1. What childhood fear of the dark do you remember?
2. Read **John 8:12**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. How does understanding the historical context of the dark candelabra and Israel's longing for God's glory deepen your appreciation of Jesus' claim to be "the light of the world"?
4. Patrick described how God's glory left the Temple in Ezekiel 10 and returned through Jesus entering by the East Gate. What does this tell us about God's faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness?
5. What is your gut reaction to the idea of standing "completely exposed in all your sin in the presence of Jesus"? Does the sermon's answer—that it's actually the safest place—change your perspective?
6. "If you expose and confess your sins to Jesus, He will cover them... But if YOU try to hide them from Him, Jesus will one day expose and judge them." Why do we naturally try to hide rather than confess? What would help us embrace confession more readily?
7. Read **1 John 1:7-9**. What's the connection between "living in the light" and experiencing cleansing? How does community ("fellowship with each other") relate to walking in the light?
8. Patrick mentions that Jesus' light doesn't just forgive but transforms—changing hearts and passions. Have you experienced or witnessed this kind of transformation? Share your story.
9. How does knowing that Jesus conquered death and darkness change the way you face your own dark seasons—illness, financial struggles, disappointments, or grief?



**We all woke up this morning behind enemy lines.
We were born in a war zone.**

Scripture References (In order of use): John 7:37; John 8:7-11; 1 John 1:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Daniel 12:3

Reference Works: Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John (Bob Utley); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings); John (Kenneth O. Gangel); John (Barnabas Lindars)