***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Worship Series – Week 1**

***Jesus Revealing Us***

**February 18, 2024**

|  |
| --- |
| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES**  Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

**Introduction to the series:** [*On screen as people enter or printed in program*]

|  |
| --- |
| The Lenten Season has been used by churches over the centuries as a time for Christians to meditate on the life of Jesus and, and in doing so, to assess their own lives as disciples who are called to be like him.  As we take this journey together…   * We will see Jesus calling us to repentance. * We will own our need to confess our sin. * We will allow ourselves to come under his revealing gaze and become more aware of what we could not see in ourselves and what we can still become. * We will sit at the feet of this humble teacher and repent of our disabling arrogance. * We will marvel at the many dimensions of Jesus’ healing ministry, thank him for our own healings—some of them ongoing—and perhaps pray for a needed new healing. * As we explore Jesus’ ongoing mission of re-creation in our lives and in the world, we will hear him invite us to be a part of it. * And as we walk with Jesus through the last week of his earthly life, through crucifixion to resurrection, we will claim again the saving and sanctifying power of Calvary love and Easter life.   (*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 2-3) |

**[The Gathering] [The Word]**

**Call to Worship**

***1*** *Before time itself was measured, the Voice was speaking.*

*The Voice was and is God.****2****This celestial Word remained ever present with the Creator;****3*** *His speech shaped the entire cosmos.  
Immersed in the practice of creating,  
    all things that exist were birthed in Him.****4****His breath filled all things  
    with a living, breathing light—****5****A light that thrives in the depths of darkness,  
    blazes through murky bottoms.  
It cannot and will not be quenched.*

***10****He entered our world, a world He made; yet the world did not recognize Him.****11****Even though He came to His own people, they refused to listen and receive Him.****12****But for all who did receive and trust in Him, He gave them the right to be reborn as children of God;****13****He bestowed this birthright not by human power or initiative but by God’s will.* ***14****The Voice took on flesh and became human and chose to live alongside us. We have seen Him, enveloped in undeniable splendor—the one true Son of the Father—evidenced in the perfect balance of grace and truth.*

(John 1:1-5, 10-14, *VOICE*)

**[The Response]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SB#573/HC#191/SS#1 – Be Thou my vision** | TB-831 – Slane  TB-568 – same  HC-191  SS-1 | No HT CD  No HT CD  HCD18-T11 |

**Leader:**

What do we mean when we sing such words as “Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart!”? In what sense is our Lord Jesus our vision? How can we see through his eyes? Perhaps one of the reasons the Gospels were written was to help us see the difference between the ways Jesus saw particular people, situations, and events he encountered, and the ways his disciples did. Often, what he saw was not what they saw. They did not yet have Jesus’ vision. One of Jesus’ greatest challenges in discipling his Twelve was to get them to see the astonishing way he saw into people.

(*Lenten Awakening*, p. 23)

**[The Word]**

|  |
| --- |
| **Drama – The Punch Bowl** |

**[The Response]**

**Invocation – Option #1**

Dear Jesus, by your Holy Spirit enable me to see myself clearly through your eyes so that I can accept what is there and grow further by your grace. Help me to see others through your eyes, so that I can love them as they are and be you to them. And help me to see all of life through your eyes so that my witness can be reliable. Please be my vision, and your presence my light. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, p. 26)

**Invocation – Option #2**

Dear Lord, even though I have the same living water within me that you gave the Samaritan woman, so often I find myself searching for other things to fill my life.

It’s inconceivable that anyone who’s tasted of your goodness would drink from any other well. Yet I have. Money. Success. Pleasure. Popularity. Security. In the end, all dry wells.

But how many times have I lowered my cup into their depths? And how many times have I brought it up empty?

Keep vivid in my mind the time when you met me by the well and said, “I who speak to you am he.” And may the memory of that sacred moment keep me from wandering to seek water at any other well than yours.

Keep my faith pure so it would be a deep well where others could come to be refreshed. And as they do, O Lord Jesus, I pray that you would meet them there…as you did that Samaritan woman…as you did me…and give them living water.

Renew in me, O Savior, a zeal like this Samaritan woman had—a zeal to tell her friends, her acquaintances, and even strangers about you. Not a zeal to worship in this church or that. Not a zeal for theology. Not a zeal for causes. But a zeal for you. For you, and only you… Amen.

(*Moments with the Savior*, p. 94)

**[The Word]**

|  |
| --- |
| **Children’s Moment – Jesus Revealing Us** |

***Jesus Revealing Us***

**[The Word]**

**Responsive Reading:**

**Leader:** There is one more thing we dare not leave out in our pursuit of learning to see as Jesus sees. It’s the matter of our eyes. What we see is interpreted through the filtering lens of our acquired learning, our set opinions, our good or bad fortunes, our belief system, and a variety of other influences. Jesus invites us to a different way of seeing. He reveals it in a prayer:

**All:**  ***25****At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father—Lord of heaven and earth. You have revealed Your truths to the lowly and the ignorant, the children and the crippled, the lame and the mute. You have hidden wisdom from those who pride themselves on being so wise and learned.”*

(Matthew 11:25, *VOICE*)

**Leader:** The disciples struggle with the concept of the kingdom of heaven. They do not yet understand that who is most important or most powerful is a contradiction in terms. Later in Mathew’s Gospel, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

**All: *2*** *Jesus called over a little child. He put His hand on the top of the child’s head.****3****“This is the truth: unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.****4****In that kingdom, the most humble who are most like this child are the greatest.****5****And whoever welcomes a child, welcomes her in My name, welcomes Me.”*

(Matthew 18:2-5, *VOICE*)

**Leader:** In God’s economy, each soul has its own value apart from all others. Jesus calls the people of His kingdom to help the weak and the friendless, the small and the frail, the mute and the poor, the ugly and the disfigured.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 25-26)

**[The Response]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HC#136 – We All Bow Down** | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#623/SS#131 – Take my life and let it be**  **HC#142 – All for Thee** | TB-249 – Hendon  TB-246 – Consecration Hymn  SS-131  HC-142 | HTD8-T6 (4 vs.)  HTD12-T3 (3 vs. – 2 vs. together)  HCD13-T12 |
| **SB#626 – The Savior of men came to seek and to save**  **HC#154 – Moved with Compassion** | TB-484 – The old rustic bridge  HC-154 | No HT CD  HCD14-T14 |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **SB#935/HC#203/SS#61 – There are people hurting (They Need Christ)** | TB-886 – same  HC-203  SS-61 | No HT CD  HCD19-T13 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty** | TB-722 – same  HC-219 | No HT CD  HCD20-T19 |
| **SB#418/HC#269 – People need the Lord** | TB-797 – same  HC-269 | No HT CD  HCD25-T19 |

**Leader:**

The first Christians understood what the word “witnesses” meant, and they embraced it. Our mission is to be Jesus in the world in which we live and to proclaim the good news of the gospel. We are to bring people to faith. How well are we doing as a corps in blessing those who are not our members? How well are you doing? Are we compassionate witnesses?

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 43-44)

**[The Response]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SB#819/HC#202 – O Church, arise** | TB-777 – same  HC-202 | No HT CD  HCD19-T12 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#980/HC#153 – Storm the forts of darkness** | TB-844 – same  HC-153 | No HT CD  HCD14-T13 |
| **SB#626 – The Savior of men came to seek and to save**  **HC#154 – Moved with Compassion** | TB-484 – The old rustic bridge  HC-154 | No HT CD  HCD14-T14 |
| **SB#89/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing**  **HC#161 – My Great Redeemer’s Praise** | TB-75 – Grimsby  TB-59 – Azmon  SS-48  HC-161 | No HT CD  HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)  HCD15-T11 |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **HC#193/SS#156 – Soldiers’ Hymn** | HC-193  SS-156 | HCD18-T13 |
| **SB#699/HC#207/SS#88 – Every promise we can make (Grace Alone)** | TB-640 – same  HC-207  SS-88 | No HT CD  HCD19-T17 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty** | TB-722 – same  HC-219 | No HT CD  HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#250 – Hear the Call of the Kingdom** | HC-250 | HCD23-T20 |
| **SB#270/HC#135/SS#130 – Open the eyes of my heart** | TB-792 – same  HC-135  SS-130 | No HT CD  HCD12-T15 |
| **HC#304 – Build Your Kingdom Here** | HC-304 | HCD29-T14 |

**[The Response]**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**[The Response]**

**Offering**

**[The Response]**

**Testimony of Faith –** [*Choose someone from the congregation who can testify on this theme.*]

**[The Word]**

**Message – Jesus Revealing Us**

**[The Response]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HC#87 – Passion** | HC-87 | HCD7-T17 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#623/SS#131 – Take my life and let it be**  **HC#142 – All for thee** | TB-249 – Hendon  TB-246 – Consecration Hymn  SS-131  HC-142 | HTD8-T6 (4 vs.)  HTD12-T3 (3 vs. – 2 vs. together)  HCD13-T12 |
| **SB#626 – The Savior of men came to seek and to save**  **HC#154 – Moved with Compassion** | TB-484 – The old rustic bridge  HC-154 | No HT CD  HCD14-T14 |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **SB#935/HC#203/SS#61 – There are people hurting (They need Christ)** | TB-886 – same  HC-203  SS-61 | No HT CD  HCD19-T13 |
| **SB#376/HC#219 – King of kings, majesty** | TB-722 – same  HC-219 | No HT CD  HCD20-T19 |
| **SB#418/HC#269 – People need the Lord** | TB-797 – same  HC-269 | No HT CD  HCD25-T19 |

**[The Sending]**

**Benediction:**

Dear Jesus, we are VISION PEOPLE! By your Holy Spirit we will grow further in your grace. We will see others through your eyes, so that we can love them as they are and be you to them. We will see all of life through your eyes so that our witness will be reliable. You are our vision, and your presence our light. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, p. 26, adapted)

**[The Sending]**

**Vocal Benediction:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SB#938/HC#277 – We have caught the vision splendid** | TB-394 – Austria  TB-361 – Blaenwern  HC-277 | HTD1-T2 (3 vs.)  HTD5-T3 (3 vs.)  HCD26-T17 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#349 – Yet once again, by God’s abundant mercy** | TB-494 – Pilgrims | HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#1031/HC#283 – Lord, if your presence** | TB-740 – same  HC-283 | No HT CD  HCD27-T13 |
| **HC#309 – Go in Peace, Go in Love** | HC-309 | HCD29-T19 |

**[The Sending]**

**Announcements**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lent 2024 – Week 1** | |
| **DRAMA**  **The Punch Bowl**  **By Joe Caddy**  © Copyright 2009 by Joe Caddy. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | Relationships |
| **Scripture:** | John 4:1-26 |
| **Synopsis:** | A woman is shunned by those around her until a different kind of man enters her world. |
| **Characters:** | Michelle – a woman with a shameful past.  Josh – an understanding and forgiving man.  Optional extras |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Modern dress. A table with a punch bowl and one cup. |
| **Setting:** | An afterwork office party. |
| **Running time:** | 5 minutes |

[*Optional: two people are helping themselves to the punch bowl while making light conversation. Michelle enters and they start pointing and whispering to each other, eventually moving away from Michelle.*]

**Michelle:** [*moving to the punch bowl*] Finally! I was beginning to think the line would never die down. [*pours herself some punch*] Here’s to misery . . . that doesn’t love company. [*drinks*]

**Josh:** [*enters while Michelle is pouring her drink and overhears her ‘toast’*] I guess an “I’ll drink to that!” would be out of the question then.

**Michelle:** Oh. [*embarrassed*] I didn’t see you there. [*to self*] Great. Just great. Didn’t anyone tell the new guy to keep his distance from me? That’s just what I need. If people see me even talking to him there are going to be rumors. If he only knew me, he wouldn’t want to be seen talking to me either. Alright, just don’t make eye contact.

**Josh:** I was wondering if . . .

**Michelle:** [*looks him straight in the face, then turns away quickly*] Shoot!

**Josh:** What?

**Michelle:** Nothing. [*still trying to avoid eye contact*] What were you saying?

**Josh:** Oh, well I’m a little thirsty and I was hoping I could get something to drink.

**Michelle:** Help yourself, then. Go crazy!

**Josh:** You see that’s the thing; I don’t have a cup or anything and it seems that they’re all out.

**Michelle:** That’d be a problem now, wouldn’t it?

**Josh:** I was hoping that I could use yours.

**Michelle:** [*shocked*] What?

**Josh:** Your cup. I was hoping I could use your cup to get a drink.

**Michelle:** No offense, but I don’t really know you well enough to share my cup with you.

**Josh:** None taken. But if you did know me, you’d know that if I offered to share my drink with you, your life would never be the same.

**Michelle:** [*to self*] What is he saying? [*to Josh*] Look, buddy, I’ve heard a lot of lame pickup lines in my life . . .

**Josh:** I know.

**Michelle:** What?

**Josh:** And I know that you’ve fallen for a lot of them, too.

**Michelle:** [*angry*] Who have you been talking to?

**Josh:** No one.

**Michelle:** Listen, buddy! You’re kind of creeping me out, here. Besides, when my husband hears about this . . .

**Josh:** You’re not married . . . well, not anymore at least.

**Michelle:** [*caught off guard but defensive*] How do you know that?

**Josh:** I know you’ve had five husbands and the man you’re living with right now is not your husband.

**Michelle:** Look, either you’ve been talking to somebody or you’re like a psychic or something . . . but in any case, I really don’t want to talk about it.

**Josh:** If you drink what they’ve got here, when it’s gone you will be thirsty again. But the drink I offer is from God. Drink and you will never thirst again.

**Michelle:** Oh, you’re one of those guys. I used to go to church, and I know all about guys like you . . . you religious types. You’re always pointing out people’s mistakes and how they make us far from God and all that stuff.

**Josh:** You’re right. They do.

**Michelle:** Yeah, well everyone makes mistakes, and I just don’t want to deal with mine right now. I’ve tried to put them behind me, but people like you just keep bringing them up. That’s kind of why I wanted to just hang out by myself. [*sighs, looking around*] You know, you’re taking a real risk being seen with me here.

**Josh:** No risk. The only risk is the one that you take if you don’t take me up on my offer. Those who drink the living water will never die. But those who do not will have to face the consequences of their mistakes.

**Michelle:** Okay, buddy, I don’t know who you think you are that you can just come over here and claim to have the solution to all my problems. I’ve tried to get over this. Do you think I enjoy being called a tramp or worse? Do you think I haven’t already been facing the consequences of my mistakes? [*breaks down*] I’ve tried praying. I’ve tried going to support groups. But it just doesn’t seem to help. They can’t make the ugliness go away. Every new guy I meet and fall in love with makes me feel more and more . . . ugly.

**Josh:** There will be a time when those who believe will return to God. Then, a man will come into your life and your relationship with him will change all that ugliness back into beauty. The old will be made new.

**Michelle:** [*remembering, whispers*] The Messiah.

[*Michelle looks him in the face, realizing who he is. He grabs her by the shoulders.*]

**Josh:** The time has come.

[*Michelle runs off stage excitedly leaving Josh standing, looking after her.*]

[*Blackout*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Children’s Moment – Week 1**

***Jesus Revealing Us***

**February 18, 2024**

**By Katie Laidlaw**

**Synopsis:** *Lenten Awakening* series focuses on the life and teaching of Jesus in such a way to awaken us and encourage us to see ourselves through his eyes. Superhero, “The Awakening,” introduces each week’s topic to children.

**Costume:** Superhero cape, mask, etc. (anything to look like a superhero).

**Intro/Outro:** Play superhero-type music as “The Awakening” enters and exits. *For Superhero Royalty-Free Music, go to:*

<https://www.storyblocks.com/audio/search/superhero?sort=most_relevant>

|  |
| --- |
| **Week 1 – Jesus Revealing Us** |

[*Play intro superhero music as you enter the chapel. Invite children to come to the front, having them stand for the lesson.* (Standing keeps the children attentive, engaged and involved in the lesson as the congregation “watches them.” Sitting creates a more relaxed/informal mindset, allowing children to potentially disengage.)]

**Script:**

Let me introduce myself. My name is…: *The Awakening.*

Do you know what the season of Lent is? [*Allow children to respond*]

Lent is the 40 days before Easter. Do you know what happened on Easter? [*Allow children to respond*]

Absolutely! Jesus arose from the dead. During Lent we prepare for Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, and we also prepare for Jesus raising back to life. It’s a miraculous time, and we need to prepare our hearts for that. That’s what we’ll be looking at the next several weeks.

Today we’re going to talk about how Jesus is revealing who we are. Did you know that Jesus reveals who we are? What do you think are some things that Jesus asks—or calls—us to be? What does his word (the Bible) say we should be? [*Allow children to respond*]

In the Bible, in Matthew 11:25 (NIV), it says:

*“I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, and revealed them to little children.”* And God was pleased to do that.

You have a lot of life ahead of you, do you know that? (Probably a lot more than some of the other people in this room!) So it matters that you know Jesus, and that you know who Jesus has called you to be. Jesus says:

* You are his child.
* You are loved.
* You are chosen.

Jesus says, “Be holy, as I am holy.” Jesus says to love others as he loves us. It’s important that we know who Jesus is so that we can live that out.

When the hard times come and we don’t know what’s happening—and when we start to grow and have to make choices about our lives—if we don’t know who we are in Jesus, we’re going to get pretty lost.

Even though I have this fancy cape on, you know that I can’t fly around and save you, right? Only Jesus can save! We need to go to him with all our hearts—with everything we are and everything we have. When we seek Jesus first, when we pray and study the Bible (his word), we will know who we are: Jesus’ children. He loves us very much. That’s the most important thing about knowing who we are—*knowing Jesus first*.

Let’s pray:

*Dear Jesus,*

*I thank you that you love us so much. I thank you that we know who we are because you chose us. You chose to die on the cross for our sins; you chose to forgive us. You loved us so much that you came to this earth to sacrifice your life. Help us to know you and to be your friend. We love you and we thank you. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

We’ll see you next week!

[*Play outro superhero music as children go back to their seats and you leave the chapel.*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Sermon – Week 1**

***Jesus Revealing Us***

**February 18, 2024**

**By Major Catherine Mount**

**TITLE: Jesus Revealing Us**

**SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-14**

**INTRODUCTION:** [*Poll the congregation*] Snooze…or…No Snooze? [*Share your own wake up habit.*] Or do some of you wake up whenever or however you want? – Ah, yes! That’s the toddlers and the retirees! You have a lot in common. I can’t help but think about HOW we wake up as we consider our theme for this season: **Lenten Awakening**. We are inviting you to *WAKE UP!* during this Christian season of Lent.

**CONTEXT**: Lenten Awakening is an invitation to LET JESUS work in your life. Matthew 11:25 in the Amplified Bible translation refers to God the Father *revealing* TRUTH to those young in their faith. It says:

*“At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth [I openly and joyfully acknowledge Your great wisdom], that You have hidden these things [these spiritual truths] from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants [to new believers, to those seeking God’s will and purpose].”*

The invitation as we worship together these next 7 weeks – as we learn more about Jesus – is to wake up to WHO Jesus is and WHAT He is doing. Let’s start in John 1.

**SCRIPTURE: READ JOHN 1:1-14**

**I. WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT JESUS?**

Let’s work backwards from what we just read together, asking the question: What do we learn about Jesus?

* Vs. 14 – He is full of grace and truth! Jesus is the WORD made flesh (he’s human).
* Vs. 12 – He made a way for people to become children of God.
* Vs. 10 – He came as the incarnate One, meaning IN PERSON God – the MESSIAH – and was not recognized by his own.
* Vs. 9 – He is the “true light that gives light to every man.”
* Vs. 4 – “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.”
* Vs. 3 – “Through Him all things were made.”
* Vs. 1-2 – Jesus IS the WORD and He was WITH God the Father in the very beginning. JESUS is ONE with the Father, from the very beginning which means He is all-knowing (omniscient); all-powerful (omnipotent); and all-present—all places, before, during and after (omnipresent). And because of this, because of WHO Jesus is, He is rightfully recognized as THE LIGHT.

**1 John 1:5** says that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. **JESUS is the Light** and when we’re talking about a Lenten awakening, you are invited to turn on His Light FULL BLAST in your life!

**ILLUSTRATION:** [*Share a story about going from dark space/room to a well-lit room/space.*] Going from the dark to the light can be a shock. What does the light do? Verse 5 says it SHINES in the darkness. Jesus is the Light that will SHINE in your life, and the result is Jesus REVEALING who YOU are, and how HE SEES and LIGHTS UP the world around you.

**What does Light do? REVEALS.** As we kick off this Lenten season together, we are desperately asking you to LET JESUS give you a revelation. To let the LIGHT of the LORD work in you, and your family, and in this church in incredible ways. This leads me to ask you the question:

**II. WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LIGHT?**

Are you hiding from it? Avoiding it? Embracing it? Or only turning it on when it’s convenient? I think there are two specific ways that Jesus, who is the LIGHT, impacts our everyday living.

1. **First, when we are walking in the LIGHT it affects how we view ourselves.** The LIGHT of God reveals our sins, our inadequacies, our gifts, our hopes, our purpose. The best of us and the worst of us. Jesus KNOWS everything about us. Here are some examples of Jesus knowing everything about people:
2. Jesus meets the woman at the well (John 4:5-30). Even though they were strangers, Jesus knew her whole story.
3. Jesus confronts the Pharisees’ *private* thoughts (Luke 5:22). Before they ever said anything out loud, He knew their motives.
4. Jesus interacts with His disciples. He knew their pasts, their present, and their futures.

Jesus already knows. He knows *all* things and *every*thing about you, and He wants you to walk with Him in a LIGHT-filled life.

**READ 1 JOHN 1:5-7.**

1. 1 John 1:6 – John (the author) is inviting you into a CHOICE. We have a CHOICE of where we are walking and how we are living. We are either living and walking in the light (God’s moral and righteous goodness) or the darkness (self-focused human nature and sin sickness) – this is all about your will. God is not inviting us into a lifestyle of behavior modification, He is reminding us that the Holy Spirit is in you all the time, so let the Holy Spirit LIGHT shine through you ALL the time.
2. 1 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.”* We have fellowship with one another—not just with the body of Christ (horizontal), but fellowship WITH God through the Holy Spirit (vertical)! THINK about the POWER of the Holy Spirit that is within you, Jesus follower! You are either walking in the light or you are walking in the dark.
3. And here’s the deal: there are people who claim to love Jesus, who claim to be connected, who are liars. Vs. 6 (NIV) says, *“If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.”*

So, what kind of relationship do you have with Jesus, the Light of the World? Are you letting Him REVEAL His way in your life? Because when you do, something spectacular happens! Jesus changes the way you see everything. When we choose living in the Light with the power of the Holy Spirit, how we see ourselves and others is filtered through the vision of Jesus. Everything in the world looks different when it is exposed to the Light of Christ, especially other people.

1. **When we are walking in the Light of God, it affects how we view and interact with other people!**

Why? Because when we are walking in the Light, Jesus helps us see people like HE sees them! All throughout the gospels, Jesus would see people in despair and have compassion on them. He touches the leper; He befriends and recruits the fisherman to discipleship. Jesus makes space for people, for the broken and the desperate, and the lonely and the scared. Jesus SEES them and LOVES them. When we let the Light of God *awaken* in our lives, we see people like Jesus sees them, with possibility, hope, and grace. What kind of lens do you see the world through? Think about how your days would be different if you woke up and put on glasses that were a “Jesus filter” to the rest of the world.

We are already looking at the world through our own point of view. It’s called a worldview. Worldview is defined as: *“*The overall perspective from how an individual sees and interprets the world” (affected by our experiences, relationships, upbringing, religious/spiritual influences, friendships, politics, countries we’ve lived in – all parts of our life affect our worldview)[[1]](#endnote-1). I want us to invite the Light of Jesus to reveal where there are problems in our worldviews and to help us to refocus with His perfect vision.

We don’t just want to put a pair of Jesus’ worldview glasses on our face; we want to let the Light of God **heal** how we interpret the world around us and to regenerate our eyes with Holy Spirit vision for how we view ourselves, others, and the world around us. We want to be people of compassion, and grace, and conviction, and justice, and love.

**CHALLENGE: WILL YOU CHOOSE A JESUS VISION OF LIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE?**

1. Will you seek Salvation (inviting Jesus Light into your life)?
2. Do you claim Light but walk in the darkness? – Seek the Lord’s grace, repent, and be purified.
3. Light Living is Light Living

We need to remember that Living in the Light is the better way. MATTHEW 11:25-30 (NIV) says:

***25****At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.****26****Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.*

***27****“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

***28****“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.****29****Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.****30****For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

When you walk with Jesus, when you *choose* to take *his* perspective, you will find rest, for His yoke is easy and his burden is light.

1. www.yourdictionary.com/worldview [↑](#endnote-ref-1)