

## WEEK 1

### I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

In her book, 'Just Enough Light for the Step I'm on', Stormie Omartian writes:

*"Sometimes only the step I'm on,  
or the very next one ahead,  
is all that is illuminated for me.  
God gives just the amount of light I need  
for the exact moment I need it.  
At those times I walk in surrender to faith,  
unable to see the future  
and not fully comprehending the past.  
And because it is God who has given me  
what light I have,  
I know I must reject the fear and  
doubt that threaten to overtake me.  
I must determine to be content where  
I am, and allow God to get me where I  
need to go.  
I walk forward,  
one step at a time,  
fully trusting that  
the light God sheds  
is absolutely sufficient."*

## MONDAY – Jesus the Light



**John 8: 12** *Once again Jesus spoke to the people. This time He said, "I am the light for the world! Follow Me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life.*

While on earth Jesus had the natural appearance of a man but heavenly beings are described to us as displaying light – like the angel that came to Joseph and to Mary. God Himself is described as light, (Psalm 104: 2), "*He wraps Himself in light as with a garment.*" With Moses, God shows him His glory but hides him in a rock so that he is only allowed to see God's back (Exodus 33). In the book of Revelation, Jesus, the Son of Man, is described in this way, "His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance" (Revelation 1: 16).

Jesus' coming to earth was certainly accompanied by light. Concerning the angel that came to the shepherds announcing Jesus' birth, Luke says, "*and the glory of the Lord shone around them*" (Luke 2: 9). A star shone over Bethlehem where Jesus was born. During Jesus' life, His glory was revealed in the transfiguration experience when He became dazzling white (Mark 9).

So when Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World," it was a statement

about His glory, but it was also about what He came to do. Jesus says of Himself in Luke 4, "*The Spirit of the Lord is on Me because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*"

This is what characterised Jesus' life on earth – bringing life to people. John 1: 4 describes Jesus, "*In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.*" He brought hope and restoration to a world of hopelessness and brokenness. He freed some from the prison of sickness, others from the loneliness of being an outcast, and a few from the grips of death itself.

Jesus came to display all the goodness of God through His caring acts toward people. He came teaching the truth; bearing the punishment for our sins. In all these ways, Jesus is the light of the world.



**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, I don't want to take one step without You. I reach up for Your hand and ask that You lead me in Your way.  
AMEN

## TUESDAY – You are a light for Jesus



**Matthew 5: 14-16.** *You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.*

In every family, there is at least one camera or mobile phone with a camera. I am sure the camera is used quite often to record those special moments each family cherishes.

A very special moment happened to me one day whilst attending a short lecture on how to photograph birds. The lecturer asked the audience, “What is a photo?” His answer opened up the wonderful world of photography to me. His simple suggestion to the answer was, “A photo captures light at a certain moment in time!” He then continued his talk on the best ways to capture the light.

Jesus wants us to be snapshots of His light to every person, situation or opportunity we encounter in our lives. We should make ourselves photo-friendly. We should be in good light and try to avoid the dark places where it is difficult to record a good photo. When others look

at us, we should be able to allow others to take a snapshot of us without us knowing we are being photographed. And that photo should still reflect a part of Jesus’ character.

The reverse is also true. When we meet someone or are present in any life situation, we should be like a photographer with a camera in hand.

For us to be Jesus’ light to others we need to see to it that we are fully focused on the moment at hand. Do we pay our full attention to the person or situation? Have we made the correct settings to be the extraordinary photographer Jesus wants us to be at that moment or time frame? Do we need to take more time with the subject to ensure a perfect image? Do we have the full scene captured? Is the camera moving or is it steady – i.e. rooted to Jesus?



**Prayer** Lord, You are the light of my life. You illuminate my path, and with Your help, I will follow wherever You lead. AMEN

## WEDNESDAY – The effect of the light on us



**John 3: 19-21** *The light has come into the world, and people who do evil things are judged guilty because they love the dark more than the light. People who do evil hate the light and won't come to the light, because it clearly shows what they have done. But everyone who lives by the truth will come to the light, because they want others to know that God is really the one doing what they do.*

Light reveals **truth**. It reveals truth about us and the truth about Christ Himself. The Pharisees, in John 8, had a problem with Jesus' claim about Himself. They wanted a legal battle, not a saving moment. But Jesus confidently stated the truth about Himself. John realised the truth, so he said, "*Look, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*" After the resurrection, the two who walked the road to Emmaus finally recognised Jesus in the light of His own revelation.

The light reveals the way of **salvation**. John 8:12 says, "*Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" This means life in all its fullness. It means eternal life! It comes not by accepting a set of standards to follow, nor by being good. It is not inherited by birth, but by receiving Jesus. You trust in what He has done on the cross for you. You trust that He has now

left His Holy Spirit to guide and empower you for service.

The light causes **growth**. As we take in the truth and the presence of Jesus, we grow and mature just as plants need sunlight to grow. The presence of Jesus in us changes us and purifies us. We blossom with godly character. We are filled with joy, thankfulness and peace. Growth comes by being guided by the light of Jesus in us. Jesus, who is also the Word, "is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm: 119:105). We find our way on our spiritual journey by looking to Jesus.

The light gives **reassurance**. The sun warms us creating peace. Jesus, the Light, brings us to a place of peace. We gain peace because the burden of sin is lifted and the path through life and to our eternal home is clear and sure and all mapped out for us. We are secure and that always leaves a warm feeling inside our hearts.



**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank You that Your light is a constant in my life no matter what is going on around me. Shine Your light through me as I walk with my hand in Yours. AMEN

## THURSDAY – Light and Darkness



**Isaiah 59: 2,9,10** <sup>2</sup>*Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you.*

<sup>9</sup>*Therefore is judgment far from us, neither does justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.* <sup>10</sup>*We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes.*

**Matthew 4: 16** *The people who live in darkness will see a great light! On those who live in the dark land of death the light will shine!*

Have you ever spent a night in fear of some danger? How different everything seemed the next day in the bright, cheery sunshine! You can easily understand why the Bible uses darkness as a symbol of evil, error, uncertainty, trouble and death. Light is a symbol of life, joy truth, and all that is good.

Darkness is the absence of light. The world was plunged into spiritual darkness the instant that sin separated Adam and Eve from God. Why? Because God is the source of light! Without Him we can only wander around in the dark – lost, not knowing where we are going.

Jesus, the Light, drives out darkness. His presence in the

heart drives out sin, guilt, and fear. His love drives out hatred. His light brings hope, assurance, comfort, and strength, to the soul. Psalm 27: 1. *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*

Light is stronger than darkness. "All the darkness in the world can't put out a single candle." If you have Jesus in your life, the powers of evil around you and the dark experiences of life cannot put out the light of Jesus.

A Christian woman who had been sick for months and unable to leave her bed was always cheerful. Someone asked her how she could be so happy when she couldn't even get out to see the sun. She said, "My room is dark but I have the Son in my heart." Jesus was her inner source of spiritual light that drove away the gloom. He flooded her soul with sunshine.



**Prayer:** Dear Lord, shield me from being lured by the darkness of the world. Help me to always find Your light and trust it to be just the right amount I need for the step of life I am on. AMEN

## FRIDAY – Light for all



**Luke 1: 78, 79** *For our God is merciful and tender; He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us, and shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow of death, to guide our steps into the path of peace.*

**John 3: 19,20** *This is how the judgment works; the light has come into the world, but men love the darkness rather than the light, because they do evil things. And anyone who does evil things hates the light and will not come to the light, because he does not want his evil deeds to be shown up.*

Light is for everybody. Just as the sun shines on the hilltop and in the valley, on the rich and poor, on wise men and fools; so the light of Jesus shines for all the world, on both good and bad. Some people thought the Saviour would be just for their nation. But God makes it plain that His light of salvation is for the entire world.

Some people refuse to accept Jesus' light. They want to go ahead and live their own way, and not do what Jesus tells them to. When Jesus was on earth, some people hated Him because His teaching showed them what sinners they were. They wanted to put out the light, to kill Him. They fought against the gospel.

Jesus let them know that He has

brought salvation for everyone. Whoever accepts Him will be saved. But those who refuse His light are condemning themselves to live and die in darkness.

In Luke 18: 35-43 a blind man sat by the roadside begging. He heard a crowd coming. He learned that Jesus was passing by. The beggar had heard about Jesus' power to heal. He cried out; "*Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!*" The people scolded him and told him to be quiet. They didn't think Jesus had time to help a beggar. But Jesus has time and help for everyone who calls to Him. The beggar kept calling. Jesus stopped and had the beggar brought to Him. Jesus healed him.

Life took on new meaning and new direction after the beggar met Jesus. His world of darkness turned to day. It didn't matter what he had been, where he had sat begging, how he had stumbled in the dark. Now he walked in the light — no longer a blind beggar but a follower of Jesus who is the light of the world!



**Prayer** Lord, You are everything to me. Thank you that I can walk each moment with You and not have to figure life out on my own. AMEN