

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30, 2009

**THIS WEEK'S FOCUS**

**Light Has Come**

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us."

**-Marianne Williamson**

"The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light..."

Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness."

**-John 12:35-36, 44-46**

**THIS WEEK'S TEXT**

Titus 2:11-14

**RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE**

Titus 3; Acts 11:23; 1 Tim 2; 2 Tim 3; Psalm 67:2; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:16; 2 Thess 2:8; Matthew 20:28; Psalm 130:8; 1 Peter 1:18; Ephesians 2:10; John 3, 8; Ephesians 5

**STUDY GUIDE**

- **What observations can be made about:**
  - The author of this passage
  - The original recipient(s) of this letter
  - The way God appears and what that appearance accomplishes
  - The consequent effects of God's presence
  - The element and effect of time in this passage
  - The way in which "appearing" is used in this passage
  - The importance of grace in this passage
  - How virtue is developed in the life of a Christian
  - The end-goal of the redeeming work of Jesus
  
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the original readers, what do they mean for us now?**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- What does it mean for God to provide salvation for all people without distinction, but not without exception? How does this affect our response to God?
- Pastor JR said, "How we experience God largely impacts how others experience us". Do you agree with this? How have you seen this played out, or not, in your own life? In others?
- What does it mean that salvation isn't about a transaction, but a person? How does this statement reveal the very central question of Christianity? How does this statement affect the way we communicate the gospel to those who don't yet believe it?
- There was an illustration in the sermon from Hemmingway about 800 "Pacos" replying to a newspaper ad in Spain. This spoke to the universal longing in humans to be forgiven and reconciled. Do you experience this in yourself? Do you see this in others? How does this inform the way that you love and serve friends, neighbors, and coworkers?
- How have you this week looked back in remembrance at Jesus' coming in grace, and looked forward in anticipation at his coming in glory? How does this affect your daily experience?

"For light I go directly to the Source of light, not to any of the reflections."  
–Mildred Lisette Norman

## MEMORY VERSES

**Last Week:** Psalm 23

**This Week:** Titus 2:11-12

## PRAYER FOCUS

**For the Vision and Direction of the church (November):**

Apostles Church will be a people who experience life-change together. We will seek to become more like Jesus as we experience the transforming grace and power of His Spirit.

**In Response to the Text:**

- Praising God for his far-reaching, saving love
- Praising God for faithfully sanctifying his people
- Confessing our remaining ungodliness, worldly passions and lack of self control
- Confessing our lack of faith and need for continual grace
- Thanking Jesus for being our substitutionary sacrifice
- Thanking God for giving us his very Spirit that we would become the "light of the world"
- Asking the Spirit to lead us in good works that honor the Father
- Asking for Jesus' return – praying as the church always has: "Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

## FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Darkness and Light* – Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones
- *A Heart Like His* – Beth More (for women)
- *David: Man of Prayer, Man of War* – Walter Chantry
- *David: A Man of Passion & Destiny* – Chuck Swindoll
- *After God's Own Heart: The Gospel According to David* – Mark Boda

## NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Matthew 2:7-18