

Middle School

At-Home Version of Session 4

Light of the World: Week 3

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus wants everyone to experience new life in Him, so as we find the light of Christ in our darkness, we are called to share His light with others.
 - In order for us to share the light of Christ with others, we have to let His light into our lives.
 - It is not enough to simply experience the light of Christ, to keep it to ourselves and hide it away. We must go out and share about our God who loves us so much that He came to save us from all darkness.
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Theme Verse

- John 8:12: "Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

Recap and Intro

- This is the last week of our series "Light of the World." We've learned that the light of Christ has set us free from the darkness. His love and light have driven out the darkness of fear, and His great mercy has set us free from the darkness of sin. But it doesn't end here. There are people we know who are living lives in the darkness and need the great love of Jesus Christ, and He calls us to share His light with all those we encounter. With His love and light in our lives, we never need to be afraid of anything even as we go into the dark to share Jesus's light with others.

Sharing Christ's Light

LETTING THE LIGHT IN

Read:

- Jesus tells us not to hide the light we have received and instead to share it with others so they too may find light in the darkness.
- He also says, “let your light so shine before people, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” The key phrase being “see your good works.” (Matthew 5:16) In order for us to share the light of Christ with others, we have to let His light into our lives. We have experienced this during this series, but it cannot end here.
- You must continue to let the light of Christ into the darkness of your sins — continue to form your conscience and awareness of your sins by using the examination of conscience, by asking God for forgiveness, by reading the Bible, by going to church, by praying, and by listening to trusted adults in your life.
- It is also important that you continue to let the light of Christ free you from the darkness of fear. Let Jesus into your life; pray to Him regularly and draw near to Him, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist at Mass.
- Jesus’ light and love for you are real; there is no amount of darkness that will ever overcome you when you live in His light.

SHARE THE LIGHT

- When we experience the light of Christ, we can't keep it to ourselves and hide it away.
- We must go out and share about our God who loves us so much that He came to save us from all darkness.
- There are people in your life who may be experiencing the darkness of sin, fear, or suffering and need the hope and love of Christ. You can

inspire them to turn to Him in their time of need by the way you live your life.

- You can share the light of Christ with others by telling them about Jesus or by inviting them to Mass or youth group.
- You should not underestimate the witness of your life. When people see you treating others well, standing up for what is right, and refusing to cheat or gossip, they will know there is something different about you... something special.
- Your good works will point them to something greater — to Christ. They will want the same joy and love that you have in your life.
- The Bible is filled with verses that tell us to share the good news about Jesus. But what is the good news of Jesus? The word "Gospel" means "good news." The Gospel is the fact that God loved us so much that Jesus came to earth and died for us so that we can have the gift of eternal life. That news is life changing!
- Telling others about the Gospel is called evangelization. Let's read some Bible verses about evangelization together.
- Mark 16:15: "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"
- Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
- These verses apply to us! Jesus is asking us to tell other people about the good news!

- It is not always easy to be a follower of Christ, but He promises to always be with us. He also promises that the reward for His followers who endure in goodness and truth will be great in heaven. (Matthew 5:11-12)
- Remember that you are not alone. You have friends and your Seton community to help you along the way as you strive to let the light of Christ into the darkness of your life and the world.

Discussion

Use the following questions for discussion:

- What has been your favorite session of this series? Why?
- Which activity stood out to you the most of this series? Why?
- What is one important thing you learned in this series, "Light of the World"?

Read:

- Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Continue with discussion:

- Why does Jesus ask us to share His light rather than hide it? (Answer: The love of Jesus is great news! He literally came to the world to save us from death through His death and resurrection! And He loves everyone so much! Can you imagine if you received really really good news and then kept it a secret? That would be ridiculous to keep it a secret! The same goes for Christianity... the light of Jesus is meant to be shared with everyone.)
- Jesus uses lots of metaphors in these verses. What does He mean by "a town build on a hill cannot be hidden" and "neither do people light a lamp

and put it under a bowl"? (Answer: Lights are meant to be shown and to help people, not to be hidden so that people can live in darkness.)

- Jesus says to let our light shine in front of others. He says that when people see us living like Him, they will be drawn to Him. This means that we are Jesus' representatives. A few sayings reflect this concept: "Be careful how you live; you will be the only Bible some people ever read." What does this mean and what does it mean for our lives? Why should this quote empower us to live like Jesus? (Answer: People who don't go to church will only experience Jesus' love through us. If our goal is to live like Jesus and we are kind and joyful, people will want to know why we are so loving and joyful. They will be drawn to Jesus through us if we shine His light. If we don't shine His light and are mean and sad, then people won't know that Jesus is loving and joyful. Their only experience with Christianity will be us, and if their interactions with us are not good, then their view of Christianity might not be good. We might be the only people who will ever share the Gospel with them.)
- What would the world look like if no one lived in the darkness of sin or fear?
- What is one thing you will do this week to let more of Jesus' light into your life? (Ideas if you can't think of many... read the Bible, download the Bible app [you should ask a parent first], go to church, set a timer on my phone to pray each day, start a devotional book, talk to my parents or siblings about what I learned or ask them questions about my faith, etc.)
- In the Bible verses, Jesus tells US that we're the light of the world too. How can you share the light of Christ with others? (Ideas if you can't think of many... remind my friend how much Jesus loves them, invite a friend to church, start a Bible study at my house, invite a friend to download the Bible app, invite a friend to do a devotional with me on the Bible app, ask my friend how I can pray for them [and then pray for them], share a Bible verse with a friend, help your friend with chores or do another act of kindness for them, etc.)

- What is one thing you will do this week to share Christ's light with others? Is there a specific person you will share His light with this week?

Recap

- Jesus is the light of the world and calls us out of darkness.
- At the beginning of this series, we learned about the darkness we may be living in and the importance of recognizing sin and fear in our lives.
- We learned about the great power of Jesus who died for us, offers us forgiveness for our sins, and invites us into His light and new life.
- We had a chance to examine where in our lives we experience the darkness of fear and found that in the midst of our fear and suffering, Jesus is there to walk with us and cast out all darkness.
- Jesus does not want us to live lives of darkness, but rather, He wants us to live in the light of His mercy and love.
- He wants everyone to experience new life in Him, so as we find the light of Christ in our darkness, we are called to share His light with others.