

**Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, January 19th, 2025**

**“Life Shines in the Darkness”**

1. Read **John 1:1 (p. 1127)**. Why do you think John went to such great lengths to establish the fact that Jesus was with God in the beginning?

Why does John want us to not only know Jesus was *with God* but also that He *is God*?

2. Read **John 1:2 (p. 1127)**. Why does John repeat himself in **John 1:2**?

3. Read **John 1:3 (p. 1127)**. What things did Jesus Christ create or make?

If that statement is true (And it is!), who created you & me?

Why is that such an important truth for us to own & understand?

4. Read **John 1:4 (p. 1127)**. What two attributes of Christ are highlighted in this verse?

What interesting discovery did researchers at Northwestern University find when a sperm cell fertilizes an egg and life begins?

How does this affirm what John said about Jesus in this verse?

5. Read **John 1:5 (p. 1127)**. Why should **John 1:5** encourage us greatly even when we still see so much darkness in this world?

6. Read **John 5:24 (p. 1133)**. How could this verse help a believer struggling with the reality of a doctor's report promising death was near at hand?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Read **2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (p. 1226)**. What do these verses promise to those who have received Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How does contributing to a ministry which feeds the hungry or brings clean water to a village show a high regard for the sanctity of life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What will you remember most from this message?

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 27:1-4** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. When you read **Psalm 27:1**, how does it make you feel?
  2. Could you see any value in memorizing this verse? Why or why not?
  3. There is an old saying that says: **“God plus me is a majority.”** How does **Ps. 27:2-3** echo that sentiment?
  4. What does **Ps. 27:2-3** tell you about the power & strength of the Lord?
  5. What does **Ps. 27:4** tell us about King David’s regard for the Lord?
  6. Are you living with a similar opinion of God?
- II. Next read **Ephesians 2:1-10**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Why is it so important for us to read **Ephesians 2:1-3** periodically?
  2. What beautiful truths does Paul remind us of in **Ephesians 2:4-5**?
  3. What does it mean to you when Paul says in **Eph. 2:6: *and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus?***
  4. To what do ***the coming ages*** refer in **Eph. 2:7**? What is Paul promising to believers in this verse?
  5. How does it make you feel to know ***the riches of God’s grace is immeasurable?***
  6. How does **Eph. 2:8-9** make you feel?
  7. If our salvation is not dependent on our good works, why does Paul say, ***we were created in Christ Jesus for good works?***
- III. Now read **John 1:1-5**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **John 1:1**, why do you think John went to such great lengths to establish the fact that Jesus was with God in the beginning?
  2. Why does John want us to not only know Jesus was ***with God*** but also that He ***is God?***
  3. Why does John repeat himself in **John 1:2**?
  4. According to **John 1:3**, what things did Jesus Christ create or make?
  5. If that statement is true (And it is!), who created you & me?
  6. Why is that such an important truth for us to own & understand?
  7. What two attributes of Christ are highlighted in **John 1:4**?

8. What interesting discovery did researchers at Northwestern University find when a sperm cell fertilizes an egg and life begins?
9. How does this affirm what John said about Jesus in this verse?
10. Why should **John 1:5** encourage us greatly even when we still see so much darkness in this world?
11. Read **John 5:24**. How could this verse help a believer struggling with the reality of a doctor's report promising death was near at hand?
12. Read **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**. What do these verses promise to those who have received Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior?
13. How does contributing to a ministry which feeds the hungry or brings clean water to a village show a high regard for the sanctity of life?