

DAY 6

1 JOHN 1:5-6 NLT

Have you ever felt like you lost something in your room because of your inability to see in the dark? Once you found a source of light, you were able to see what you thought you lost! That's how our relationship with God should function. When we feel like we have lost our joy or our peace, we can reach for God as a source of light to remind us that, in God, we have everything we need. Just like the sun is the major source of light for our planet, God should be the source of light for our lives. To know God is to be impacted by God's light. God is full of love, grace, and truth. These elements alone have the power to light up any situation that you may be facing in your life.

Is there a difficult circumstance or challenging situation you're facing right now? Something that feels like darkness in your life? If so, pray that God's light will shine into that space for you. Ask God to show you that, because of the light of truth, grace, and love, you have the power to get through it.

DAY 7

MATTHEW 5:16 NLT

We live in a world where, sometimes, negativity seems to get put on blast. The impact of social media has made it so easy for things we wouldn't normally see to be shown in real time with real people experiencing real hurt. Because we are the light of the world, we don't have to be powerless to pain and negativity. Instead, we can choose to fill those spaces and places in our world with good. It's time to let those things shine!

How are you using the light of Jesus to better the world around you? This takes a great amount of courage, but what we have as followers of Jesus is way too good to just keep to ourselves. Think of ways you can let your good deeds shine for the world to see this week.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE HILLS / WEEK 1

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

GENESIS 1:2-3 ESV

The first thing God said, recorded in the book of Genesis, were four simple but powerful words: "Let there be light." This wasn't just any old statement; it was a command. Before this moment, the Earth is described as empty, without form, and full of darkness. But when these four words were spoken, darkness was broken up by light. This truth remains today, Jesus tells us Himself! Later in the New Testament, He calls us to be the light of the world. This means that no matter where we may experience darkness in our world, we are a part of being a light that breaks up the darkness. This is good news!

So today, take time to write down areas of your life where you have seen God shine. Keep adding to the list to remind you of the power of God's light at work in your life today.

DAY 2

PROVERBS 4:18 NKJV

What an amazing opportunity we have to be what the Bible calls a "living epistle (letter)." This is someone who, through their everyday life, becomes a living and breathing letter of God's goodness and grace. Someone who can share and let that light be experienced by anyone who encounters them in this life. God's light shines through you and me so that others can experience God at work in us. So that others may know Jesus and receive His light, too. The more we continue to be transformed into the image of God, the brighter our light shines in our homes, communities, and the world.

This week, think about the people in your life and the spaces and places you frequent. What would it look like for you to be a living epistle? To share the light of Jesus with those you encounter everywhere you go?

DAY 3

PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15 NLT

As important as it is to be mindful of what we do, it is just as important to also take into consideration how we do what we do. Being the light of Jesus in this world means being someone who is willing to sometimes sacrifice how you feel for a greater purpose. As God's children, it is so important for us to be an influence on those who are uncertain and searching for hope. It is incredibly difficult to influence someone who can't see a difference between what they experience with you and what they experience in this chaotic world. Following Jesus can be a challenge at times, and we may not always get it right, but with God's help, we can live the type of life that causes others to want the same light we have.

Today, take time to pray that your life will stand out to others. That they might see and experience God's light in you in a way that draws them closer to God, too.

DAY 4

EPHESIANS 5:8 NLT

We all have a past. Not one of us is perfect. Paul writes to the Romans that all of us have sinned and all of us have fallen short of God's glory. This means we all have been acquainted with darkness at some time or another. It is with the awareness of what dark times look and feel like that we should be compelled to serve our world as people who bring light wherever we go. We should be able to identify darkness and be moved by compassion to share our light. As we see in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the light that God gives us isn't just something that we should have. It's how we are called to live—as people of the light reflecting and sharing it with others every single day.

Focus on how you can live as a person of light in your everyday life. Take time to talk about that very thing with your Small Group or Small Group Leader this week.

DAY 5

EPHESIANS 5:8 NIV

*Written by Matthew, age 20,
from Sanford, Florida, USA*

Have you ever heard a new song from your favorite artist and wanted to tell all your friends? Or maybe you just found a secret menu item at a fast-food chain, so you share it with everyone around you. Allow me to fanboy for a minute! This happened to me when Justin Bieber came out with his Justice album. I listened to it on repeat and told all my friends about it. I wanted everyone around me to have the same experience I did!

This is the type of change we should have when we come to know the Truth that is found in Jesus—when we come to know the Gospel. When we experience His goodness and light, we should tell everyone around us about it. Scripture shows us that we once were in darkness, but now we have found the light of

Jesus. We are called to live like we have that light. There must be a change in our lives when we experience Jesus. We can't live the same way. We can't keep His light inside of us.

So, how can we live like we have the light of Jesus inside of us? One way we can do this is just like the story I shared with you. When we experience something good, we tell others about it. You can live like you have the light of Jesus inside of you by telling others about what He has done for you.