



WEEK 4: Living In The Light - Discipleship

S.O.A.P. METHOD

Open your life group time with prayer. This is only a guide - select the points you want to discuss. Read as a group and follow up with the scripture reading. Talk it over as a group. If it's helpful use the S.O.A.P. method.

- What **Scripture**? Which Scripture is speaking to me, challenging me, moving me?
 - What **Observation**? What am I seeing now that I wasn't seeing before? What new learning?
 - What **Application**? What is God leading me to live out and put into practice?
 - What **Prayer**? What will I pray? What new prayer will I embrace? Who will I pray for?
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CURRICULUM

We are called to live in the light

What does it mean to live in the light? The Apostle John said the wrath of God was coming not just because of sin, but because men 'loved' darkness. Live in the light! It

means more than reading a Bible and going to Church. It has a lot to do with the 'optics of ambition'. Let me explain.

Anywhere there is a hierarchy you will find men and women climbing to the top. In such places 'optics' are everything! 'How others perceive me' is what matters – more than integrity and certainly more than authenticity. Loving the darkness begins with a focus on optics; like what one might expect in the world of politics. Underlying this focus is a belief which says my future and reputation lie in how others perceive me. In this world dodging blame or worse, sullyng the name of a competitor, is the name of the game. To play this game one must embrace at least two lies: Conceal who I really am and secondly, project someone I am not. To play this game is to love darkness and in the Kingdom of God this will never be rewarded.

The Gospel of Jesus promises us two dynamics which ought to discourage duplicity. The first is He promises to openly reward only what is done in secret, that is, without the motive of optics. *“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matthew 6:3-4)*. At the end of the day, what is born in consideration of the 'optics of ambition', will not prosper. To live this way requires a leap of faith which says, 'my life is not people's opinion of me and I will not live to please them'. I choose to live in the light!

Scripture Reading:

- *Matthew 6:3-4*
- *John 1:9-11*
- *John 1:5-7*
- *Ephesians 5:8-15*

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to live in light?
2. How does people opinion or optics influence what you show or not show about yourself?

Our light creates fellowship and accountability

The second promise is this: “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore, whatever you have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which you have spoken in the ear in closets shall be

proclaimed on the housetops” (**Luke 12:2-3**). This means our true intention and actions will also become openly known, and this happens when we are in relationship with others.

At the heart of Christianity is faith. We live by these promises because ultimately, we believe God rewards and promotes. The evidence we believe is reflected in what we do. It is demonstrated in our authenticity and willingness to do our good deeds in secret. A man who truly believes, knows his future is in God’s hands and does not care what others think about him. On the other hand, the man who does not believe God promotes must promote himself or at least look good to those he believes will promote him.

Authentic ‘Kingdom Living’ is living in the light and living this light for others and with others. This means that we can’t live a life of light if it doesn’t influence others (evangelism) and if we don’t live a life of light with others (Discipleship). It is in fellowship that our light grows in an authentic way through honest and transparent accountability.

Scripture Reading:

- **John 12:35**
- **Luke 12:2-3**
- **Colossians 3:13**
- **Galatians 6:2**

Discussion Questions

1. Do you find yourself hiding your true identity from others or opening yourself to others?
2. Which is easier and why?
3. How does living in community versus not living in community influence your growth in living in light?