

Discussion Questions

Spotlight On Me

Ephesians 5:1-14

(Share a fear that you had as a child. What finally helped you overcome that fear?)

“At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

- Do you feel like darkness or light... or maybe a combination of both?
- It seems that God has allowed us to live in tension experiencing both darkness and light. Why do you think He allows this tension?
- Scripture reveals: “Now you *are* light in the Lord” but also encourages us: “Do not become partners with sons of disobedience.” We are told who we actually are but also reminded of this tension. What insights does Paul give us for how to live in this tension (See Eph. 5:???)
- Can you think of a time when you were in darkness and God exposed it with light? What role did you play in this process, what role did Christ play?

In this sermon, Peter told a story about a woman who was in her car, heard a loud shot, and felt something hit the back of her head and then something mushy at the back of her head. She thought she had been shot and that her brains were falling out because when she reached back to feel her head, she had reached back and assumed it was her brains! In time, the paramedics revealed that, in reality, a Pillsbury biscuit canister had exploded and hit her in the back of the head.

- Have you ever told yourself a story about a situation that caused you to live in fear and darkness, frozen by it, and then, later that story was exposed as a lie?
- Take a moment to reflect: are there any stories you might be telling yourself now that you feel are trapping you and paralyzing you in darkness—keeping you from living in the joy and freedom of the Light?
- Can you think of anyone in your life that seems trapped and paralyzed by a lie?

In Genesis 1 we read that the earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep and then God said spoken into the darkness and said, “Let there be light.”

- In what ways can you make space for God to speak into your darkness?
- How has God spoken into your darkness and brought life in the past?
- How might God partner with you to speak His Word and light into the darkness of those around you?

Scripture reveals: “now you are light in the Lord.” We are secure in the Lord; our position in Him is secure. The truest reality is that—in Christ—“We are seated with him in heavenly places,” yet He has allowed us to experience ourselves outside of Him in this world at times. In this sermon, Peter said that the “me” that we try to create outside of God is like a shadow. We are unable to really will anything.

- Does that idea offend you? Comfort you or affect you in some other way?
- Does it affect your understanding of free will at all and if so how?
- If this is true, why do you think God allows us to experience ourselves as willing nothing and let’s us know what it is like to live in darkness rather than light?

“If I put me in the spotlight, I cast a shadow, but if I put the spotlight in me there are no shadows.”

- Is there any area where you might be hogging the spotlight and would like to surrender that to the Light?
- How might you let His Light shine within you. How can you ingest the light?

Eph. 5:17 “Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you.

- In what ways might you be sleeping?
- What does it mean for you to wake up?
- What would you like to be woken up from?

*Take a moment to invite God to be in the spotlight and wake you up from any bad dreams you might be dreaming.

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*