



1 John 1:5

“This is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

Observe. What are some obvious points that stand out?

Ask. What questions naturally arise from this passage?

Gospel. What is the Gospel and where do you see the gospel in this text?

Apply. How does this text apply to my life at home, school, work, and church?

Overview

John has a unique message. It's source: Jesus. It's audience: us. It's content: God. What about God? *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* What a statement! Often we would complete the statement, “God is _____” with “love.” However, John begins his letter with the foundational truth that God is light. This is a big theme throughout Scripture. The word light occurs in some form over 275 times in the Bible (95 times in the New Testament). This word is used to point out God's holiness, moral purity, and goodness. It also conveys His truthfulness and revelation.

John adds another statement that reiterates the truth that, *“God is Light”* with the negative statement that, *“in him is no darkness at all.”* Essentially, John is saying that nothing and no one compares to the Lord God. He is not only holy, pure, good, and true. He possesses zero flaws. There is no ounce of evil in who God is, and how He operates.

In this lesson we will survey the Bible and see the various ways God is depicted as light. From there, we'll ask some questions of application and discussion that will help the reality of His light and our darkness set in.





Read Exodus 13:21-22

- Consider the context: What major event in Israel's history has just occurred?
 - *The Exodus from Egypt*
- What does the "pillar of cloud" and "pillar of fire" represent?
 - *The presence of God*
- Why is the presence of God "to give them light" significant in this story?
 - *God doesn't save His people and leave them where they are.*
 - *God delivers His people from slavery in Egypt, and He directs His people as light for their good (see also vv. 17-18).*
- Read **Psalm 119:105**. How does this verse help us understand how God directs His people as "Light"?
 - *Answers will vary*

Read Isaiah 42:6-7

- What is God promising to give to the nations?
 - *a light*
- What will this light do?
 - *open blind eyes*
 - *deliver prisoners from darkness*
- Read **Isaiah 49:6**. How does this verse give us more understanding as to what God's light will do?
 - *God's salvation will reach the end of the earth*
- What is the central theme we see associated with the promise and coming of this light?
 - *Salvation!*





Read John 8:12

- Who does Jesus say he is in this verse?
 - *The light of the world*
 - *Further, He's God!*
 - *God is the light of the world*
- How does John 8:12 connect with our focus passage, 1 John 1:5?
 - *Jesus is God*
 - *Jesus is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.*
- How does John 8:12 connect with the truths we saw in Isaiah 42 and 49?
 - *Jesus has come, as the Light of the world, to bring salvation to all peoples!*
- What happens as a result of following Jesus?
 - *Followers of Jesus will not walk in darkness.*
 - *Followers of Jesus will have the light of life.*
 - *In other words, followers of Jesus will not be marked by habitual sin, rather progress in holiness.*
- Are you a follower of Jesus?
 - *Encourage open and honest response*
 - *Challenge students to trust in Christ alone for salvation, and follow Him exclusively. For, salvation is only found in Jesus.*

Questions for Application and Discussion:

What about "light" makes it a suitable comparison for God?

What does the Bible mean when it says, God is Light?

Do you ever question the perfection and moral purity of God? Why?

Why would it be offensive (but true) to tell someone that they are in darkness apart from God? What evidence of darkness is clear in the world?

What is the significance of Jesus being the light "to the world"? Did Jesus only come to save one type of gender, race, or people?

Can Christians walk in the light and still struggle with sin?

If someone is doubting their salvation, how does John 8:12 help them find assurance?

