

Group Conversation Guide

For the Week of December 15

Series: The Light Has Come
Title: Jesus, Shine on Me
Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-14

Before Your Small Group Meeting

- **Watch or Attend the Message:** Listen to Jay Austin's message on Ephesians 5:8-14 at churchatviera.com/live.
- **Pray:** Seek God's guidance to open hearts and minds to His Word.

Icebreaker: Light That Changes Everything

Share a story about a time when light—literal or spiritual—made a significant difference in your life. How did it transform your perspective or situation?

Beginning the Conversation

Read Ephesians 5:8-14 as a group.

Key Terms to Explore:

- **"Darkness" (v. 8):** Our nature apart from Christ—marked by sin, ignorance, and separation from God.
- **"Light in the Lord" (v. 8):** Our new identity in Christ—marked by righteousness, knowledge, and reconciliation with God.
- **"Children of Light" (v. 8-10):** Living out our faith in ways that reflect God's goodness, righteousness, and truth.
- **"Wake Up, Sleeper" (v. 14):** A call to spiritual revival and transformation.

Discussion Starter Questions

Who Were We in Darkness? (Ephesians 5:8a)

- **Identity Without Christ:**
 - How does the metaphor of darkness describe life apart from Jesus?
 - How do sin, ignorance of God's truth, and separation from God's presence manifest in our daily lives?
- **Reflection:**
 - When have you felt the weight of "shooting in the dark" and missing God's target (will and purpose for your life)?

What Does It Mean to Be Light? (Ephesians 5:8b-10)

- **Identity in Christ:**
 - How does Jesus transform our nature when we live in His light and become light?
 - Discuss the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) as characteristics of living in the light.

- **Application:**
 - What are practical ways to live as children of light in your relationships, work, and community this Christmas season?

Exposing Darkness (Ephesians 5:11-13)

- **Transformation Through Light:**
 - How does God's light expose sin and lead to growth?
 - How can we step out of darkness and into light in Jesus?
- **Reflection:**
 - Are there areas in your life where you need Jesus' light to shine and bring transformation?

Waking Up to the Light (Ephesians 5:14)

- **Spiritual Revival:**
 - What does it mean to "wake up" spiritually?
 - How does this call challenge you in your current faith journey?

Scripture Application

Psalms 139:23-24

- How can we invite Jesus to search our hearts and reveal areas needing His light?
- In what ways does this Christmas season provide opportunities to let Jesus' light shine through us?

Personal Application

Jesus, Shine on Me

- **Reflection:**
 - Where in your life are you called to align with God's light?
 - How can you actively reject darkness and embrace the fruit of the Spirit this week?
- **Action Steps:**
 - Pray for specific areas of your life where you need transformation.
 - Identify one person to encourage with God's light this week.

Worship Together

Listen to "*Light of the World*" by Lauren Daigle and reflect on how Jesus shines His light into our hearts and through our lives.

https://youtu.be/dCRunZGYBi4?si=T-kPHKRy578_iZQH

Group Prayer

- Praise Jesus for transforming our identity from darkness to light.
- Ask to search the darkness in your life and ask *Jesus to shine on you*.

Group Encouragement

Challenge one another to:

- Walk in the light by living out the fruit of the Spirit.

- Share stories next week of how God used you to shine His light.