

MERCURY ONE 40 DAY BIBLE STUDY

*Be the Light*





# THE PURPOSE

Our country has had one of the hardest decades of our lives. Between the crippling COVID-19 shut downs, an assassination attempt on a president, food and gas prices rising, and heightened global tensions, we have had many struggles that have brought darkness over this nation.

When things feel like they are at their darkest, a small glimmer of light can make all the difference. Every morning, the Mercury One team gathers together for a devotion. We study God's word and pray together. We pray for our disaster and crisis relief efforts across the globe. We pray for our nation and world leaders. We pray for you, our donors, who make what we do possible.

We, above all, pray for guidance from the Lord. We pray that we do His will and act as his hands and feet. Knowing that He directs our steps and we simply act in obedience so we can restore the human spirit wherever and whenever it is needed.

This fall, we felt the Lord moving us to widen our circle of prayer warriors. We are called to be a city on a hill that cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:14). In the midst of the darkness in our culture today, we must walk as children of the light - pursuing goodness, righteousness, and truth (Ephesians 5:8) and pray as a people that our nation returns to God.

On October 26th, we will host "Be the Light: A Night with Mercury One" at Mercury Studios. The event name came to one of our staff members, Nicole, last year in the very early stages of us planning this evening. We chose the theme of light, not knowing it is exactly what our nation needs this year and it would reflect so much of the work you have made possible in 2024.

As we prepare our hearts for the 26th and the rest of the year, we invite you to join us for a 40-day study on Being the Light. What does God say about light? How is light described, used, and taught about in the Bible? What does it mean to "be the light" and why are we called to be? What does "being the light" look like in our everyday lives?

These are some of the questions this study will aim to cover as we learn from God's word together as the Mercury One family.



## Day 1: Light in Creation

Begin with prayer.



- **Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5**

In today's study we learn God is the creator of light. Before God, there was no light and without God's intervention, light would not exist, and therefore only darkness would remain. From this scripture, we are introduced to the contrast between light and darkness and how God calls light good. Reflect on the qualities of darkness. What are they? Reflect on the qualities of light. What are they? What makes light good?

We can see the nature of God reflected in His creation. By separating light from darkness, God shows that He is a God of order. He institutes day and night, creating a cycle of time that both embodies eternity and governs our time here on Earth. Recognizing that our time on Earth is finite, it is amazing to think that God knew this too and had His plan for our redemption fully prepared when He spoke light into existence.

**Reflection: Reflect on how God spoke light into existence and its significance in the creation narrative. Consider what this reveals about God's nature and His purpose for light. What does it teach you about God and His ultimate plan for us?**

## Day 2: Light vs Darkness

Begin with Prayer

- **Scripture: John 1:1-5**

Today's scripture introduces Jesus as the true light of all mankind. Jesus is the light of the world and darkness cannot overcome Him. Reflect on that truth. What does it mean that darkness can not overcome Jesus' light? What does that mean for followers of Jesus? How should we live our lives knowing that darkness will never overcome the light?



**Reflection:** Explore the contrast between light and darkness as described in John's Gospel. Reflect on how Jesus is presented as the true light and what implications this has for our spiritual lives.

## **Day 3: Light as a Guide**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Psalm 119:105**

In this scripture, we are taught that God's word is a light to our path. In a world that is unpredictable and in moments of uncertainty, it is a comfort to know that we can have full trust and hope in God as He knows what lies ahead of what we can't immediately see. He promises us that He knows the plans He has for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future. Today, thank God for lighting our path and rest in His peace that He holds and governs what lies ahead of us!

**Reflection:** Meditate on the metaphor of God's Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Consider how God's Word illuminates our decisions and directs our steps. How should this truth impact the way we live our lives?

## **Day 4: Light of the World**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16**

This scripture is the key scripture for "Be the Light: A Night with Mercury One." We see this verse reflected so much in the work you make possible at Mercury One. We must be the light to the world and in all of our work glorify God above all else. What does being a light to the world really look like? What are practical steps you can take to shine the light of Jesus to those around you?





## Day 5: Children of Light



Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-14**

Light and darkness cannot exist in the same place, as there is no neutrality between light and darkness. We were once all in darkness, but by accepting Christ we have the gift of living as children of light. It is impossible to live a pleasing life half in darkness and half in the light.

We must abide in the Lord and live in the light, while fleeing fruitless deeds of darkness. We should rather expose darkness. Using God's word as a reference point, how can we expose darkness? What does it look like to live your life boldly and unashamedly in the light?

**Reflection: Reflect on Paul's exhortation to walk as children of light. Consider the contrast between the fruit of light and the works of darkness, and how we are called to expose darkness.**

## Day 6: The Transfiguration

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Matthew 17:1-8**

Matthew 17: 1 - 8 is an important scripture that helps us better understand the gospel and the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. This passage also uses what we know to be true from the rest of scripture to showcase Jesus' divinity.

From this passage, we can understand that Jesus is God. It describes Jesus shining like God's glory, we know that God doesn't share His glory, yet Jesus has it. Jesus also sees God, and while all those who see God will die, Jesus does not. One of the qualities of glory is light. What does this tell us about light? Why is it significant that Jesus' face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light?



**Reflection: Study the account of Jesus' transfiguration. Reflect on how Jesus' face shone like the sun and the significance of God's glory revealed through His Son.**

## **Day 7: Jesus' Healing and Light**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: John 9:1-12**

Jesus' life is a perfect testimony of how to live in the light. We see in this passage, Jesus making a blind man see. Jesus spitting into the dirt and rubbing it into the man's eyes is very similar to God originally created us with breath and dust. When you breathe air moisture escapes, so Jesus fixes this man's ailment the same way He created him in the first place by mixing His moisture with the dirt to heal the man.

This showcases how Jesus was there at the Beginning and by coming to Earth, Jesus is the light of the world, bringing spiritual sight to those who are spiritually blind. Jesus' life is a perfect testimony of how to live in the light. Before Jesus was on Earth, people lived without His perfect example and without the guide of the Holy Spirit. How lucky and blessed are we to live with this example, and more importantly that we get the privilege of living in the fullness of the Bible. Before us, everyone lived off of the hope of prophecy of the Messiah, but we get to live today with the fulfillment of that prophecy as well as the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

**Reflection: Explore the story of Jesus healing the blind man. Reflect on how Jesus is the light of the world, bringing spiritual sight to those who are spiritually blind.**





## Day 8: The Light of Life



Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: John 8:12**

This scripture is a clear reminder that Jesus IS the light. By following Christ, you get to have the light of life, but you are not the light. Jesus is. Our most righteous time on Earth is filthy rags in comparison to God. This goes to show how truly righteous our God is, as our very best is the lowest of lows to Him. Still - God gives us a glimpse of his righteousness here on Earth, but more importantly how much better that will become in Heaven.

The only way we can experience light is by pursuing Jesus and living a life in obedience to Him. Why is it important to aim to live a righteous life when we will never reach the level of God? Why is dependence on Jesus important?

**Reflection: Meditate on Jesus' declaration that He is the light of the world and the promise that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.**

## Day 9: Light and Salvation

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:25-32**

This scripture shows God's divine plan and fulfillment of His promise to bring salvation to the world. God looked at his creation and saw that they were not even looking for a Savior, they were dwelling in the land of the shadow of death.







God stands on His mountain of glory and recognizes that man is so wicked and cannot come up to the mountain to Him. So what does God do? He goes down the mountain and meets His creation down below. Every other religion is man striving to climb up the mountain to a false god, which is never attainable. What a great God we serve that He came down and shared the light, offering the gift of salvation to anyone who would accept Him.

**Reflection:** Reflect on the prophecy of Isaiah regarding the coming Messiah as a great light. Consider how Jesus fulfills this prophecy as the light of salvation.

## **Day 10: Light in the Psalms**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Psalm 27:1; Psalm 43:3**

In both of these scriptures, we see the light of God being a comfort to the writers. God being light should give us hope and security as followers of Christ. We, like the writers of these Psalms, should praise God for His light and ask Him to lead us in his light. How is the light of God a comfort to you? How can we share this comfort with others?

**Reflection:** Study passages in the Psalms that describe God as our light and our salvation. Reflect on how God's light dispels fear and provides strength.







## Day 11: Jesus as the Light of Revelation

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Revelation 21:23-24; Revelation 22:5**

As we look around our fallen world, the curse of sin stains every part of society, we see brokenness and hurt in every community, nation, and ruler. As much as we strive to live in the light, we cannot escape the darkness on Earth.

This scripture in Revelation describes New Jerusalem and the role light will play in eternity. New Jerusalem is free from the curse of sin and the constraints of this world. Time is no longer controlled by the sun or moon, but rather the glory of God's lights and powers everything. There will be no night or darkness, rather everything will exist in complete and total brightness. Every nation bows before the throne of God and walks by the light. What hope this should give us as believers! How should having this hope change the way you live your life on Earth? How does this vision of New Jerusalem inspire us to share the gospel and love of Christ?

**Reflection: Meditate on Jesus' declaration that He is the light of the world and the promise that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.**

## Day 12: Walking in the Light

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: 1 John 1:5-7**

We follow Jesus by understanding and performing His perspectives on life. When you begin to adopt those doctrines and follow them, this is an act of true belief as it forces you to take action based on great conviction.



If we are to walk in the light as Jesus is in the light, true belief (verb!) fundamentally changes every part of our life. Scripture says that we will be known by our fruit, which demonstrates belief that actually acts upon its convictions, not just a tingly feeling of happiness that eventually proves fruitless. You cannot live a life following Christ, but still engaging with darkness. True belief looks like walking in the light, as we have fellowship with one another, and submitting to Jesus above all else. This is a good reminder of how to genuinely walk in the light and how it should transform everything about our lives.

**Reflection: Study John's teaching on walking in the light as God is in the light. Reflect on the fellowship we have with one another when we walk in the light of truth.**

## **Day 13: Light and Truth**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: John 3:19-21**

We commonly view the opposite of darkness as light, as well as the opposite of evil being good. Yet here in this verse, these parallels are present, but replacing good with truth. Here, the picture is painted that evil living is in the dark, yet living in the light is a life of truth.

As believers, this verse should encourage and challenge us as we desperately work to stand for truth. We are constantly attacked for being cruel, intolerant, and exclusive in today's wicked society when we stand firm on God's sole objective truth, rejecting individual, subjective truths that people rise up to condone their evil beliefs. Be encouraged to press on in the fight, standing firm and not compromising on God's word!





**Reflection:** Explore Jesus' teaching on how light exposes darkness and how those who practice truth come to the light. Reflect on the transformative power of God's truth.

## **Day 14: Light in the Old Testament**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-3**

This scripture gives us a glimpse of the stunning glory of Zion, the City of God, in New Heaven and New Earth. It contrasts our world today that is chained in darkness. This passage promises that the Lord will rise upon believers and His glory will appear over all. How does this make you feel? How should this promise impact the way we live?

**Reflection:** Study Isaiah's prophecy about the future glory of Zion and reflect on how God's light shines upon His people, drawing nations to the brightness of His rising.

## **Day 15: The Light of the Gospel**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

This scripture helps us understand that the enemy has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ. It is important to remember that as we share our light to those who are still in the darkness, they genuinely do not understand or comprehend what we believe or why we believe it. It can be frustrating to look at our fallen world and see people worshiping sin and celebrating evil, but we must understand they do not know what they are doing.





Considering this, it is ever important that when we evangelize that we give grace but also full explanation as to why we hold our Biblical values so dear.

**Reflection: Reflect on Paul's teaching about the gospel and how it relates to light. How can we extend grace to those still in darkness, while also teaching them the truth of the gospel?**

## **Day 16: Light and Holiness**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10**

This scripture highlights the transformation that occurs when we become followers of Christ. We once were living in darkness - mockers of Christ, lovers of evil, celebrators of wickedness - and yet by nothing of our own power, God changed everything. He sent his only Son to die for us so we are now called a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession, called out of darkness into His wonderful light. It's unbelievable mercy. Let us give thanks to God for calling us out of darkness into his wonderful light. Let us share this good news with others around us, being a light to all of the world.

**Reflection: Meditate on Peter's exhortation to believers as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession, called out of darkness into His wonderful light.**





## Day 17: Reflecting God's Glory

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35**

It is revealed in this scripture that after Moses' is in the Lord's presence, his face was radiant. After spending time with the Lord, Moses' being reflected God's presence. What does this say about our time with the Lord? Moses shows us that we can reflect God's presence in our lives and to those around us. What does this teach us about our time with the Lord? How can we be radiant with Christ's love in our lives?

**Reflection: Study the description of Moses' radiant face after being in God's presence. Reflect on how encountering God's glory transforms us and enables us to reflect His light to others.**

## Day 18: The Lamp of the Body

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Luke 11:33-36**

To experience light and darkness, we must see with our eyes what is light and what is dark. This scripture helps us understand the important role sight plays when living in darkness or in light. What our eyes focus on is what influences our life. What we consume and focus on matters. What media are you consuming? What thoughts influence your life? The more we focus on the negative and evil things - it will be reflected in the health of our lives. No part of us can be in darkness and we must continue to strive to have Christ's light influence our entire being.





**Reflection:** Explore Jesus' teaching on the lamp of the body. Reflect on how our eyes, when focused on the light of Christ, fill us with His light and influence our whole being.

## **Day 19: A Beacon of Hope**

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Isaiah 42:6-7**

In this prophecy, we can see how Jesus came to fulfill God's promise. In verse 7, it says that He will open the eyes that are blind. We see that Jesus did this both literally and figuratively while on Earth. While Jesus performed the miracle of making a blind man see, we also can reflect on our study of light so far, as see how Jesus came to make all of us see His light and escape darkness.

Jesus came so we can be free. We have learned that we were all in darkness before following Christ. We were blind to the light and the goodness of God. Through Jesus, we are able to see for the first time. Let us rejoice in that truth.

**Reflection:** Study Isaiah's prophecy about the servant of the Lord bringing light to the nations and opening the eyes of the blind. Reflect on how Jesus fulfills this prophecy.





## Day 20: The Light of Compassion

Begin with prayer.

- **Scripture: Isaiah 58:6-12**

This scripture provides tangible ways for us to Be the Light. As you read through this scripture, highlight every action listed that shines Christ's light. To be a light in darkness, we must show up for those in need. We must look around us and see where we can show charity to all and malice towards none. How can you do this in your own community? Think of one action of compassion you can take this week that is reflected in this scripture.

**Reflection:** Reflect on Isaiah's teaching about true fasting that involves sharing food with the hungry, providing shelter for the homeless, and clothing for the naked. Consider how acts of compassion shine God's light and what actions you can take to Be the Light in your community.

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