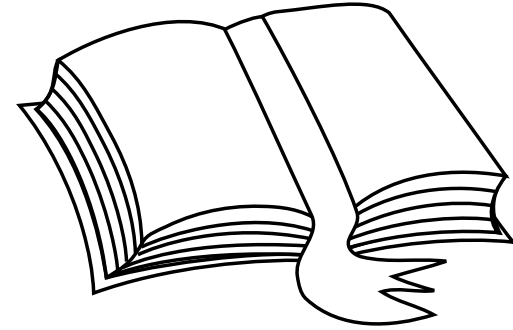


- D. What are some things in your life which have kept you from the light or helped you to come more fully into Jesus' *light*?

NOTES



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SECTION I. Introduction

- A. In your culture, does light have any special meaning?

- B. Do you have any special holidays, folk stories or religious ceremonies which talk about the idea of light and darkness? Explain.

SECTION II. The Bible often speaks about light, and the opposite of light, darkness. In the creation story we read about it. Read Genesis 1:3-5.

- A. What did God create the first day? What did He say about it?

- B. How is *light* good in our lives? (either physical or spiritual light)

- C. In what ways might *darkness* be bad for us?

SECTION III. Now read Proverbs 4:19.

- A. How does this verse describe the connection between darkness and wicked?
- B. The people are described as evil. What else does it say about the people?

SECTION IV. Read John 3:20.

- A. Do you agree with the connection this writer makes between evil deeds and darkness? Why?
- B. If people are in darkness, does that mean that they are always intentionally wicked? Why?

SECTION V. God's people in Old Testament times, the Israelites, spent 40 years in the desert. The Bible says that God was always with them. Read Exodus 13:21-22.

- A. Describe how the people knew God was there.
- B. While they were making God's presence known, how do you think the cloud and the fire may have helped the Israelites?
- C. Do you think God makes himself known to us in our lives today? If so, how?

SECTION VI. Many years after the time in the desert when God's presence was visible, God made a promise to the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah. Read Isaiah 9:2 and describe the promise.

SECTION VII. When God decided it was the right time, He kept His promise to send a light for the people who walked in darkness.

- A. Read John 8:12 and John 12:44-46.
 - 1. What does Jesus say that He is?
 - 2. Why has He come?
 - 3. What does Jesus say we must do to walk in the light?
- B. In our present lives in the twenty-first century, where do we get spiritual light?
 - 1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6. Who is responsible for the light in our lives?
 - 2. Read Psalm 119:105 and 130. Where do we find that light?
- C. When we really have *light* in our lives, what are the results?
 - 1. Read Romans 13:12-14.
 - 2. Read Matthew 5:14-16.
 - 3. Read Acts 13:47.