



GREATER ST. MATTHEW BAPTIST CHURCH: VBS 2026

Jesus the Light of the World—SESSION 1: “The Light of God in Creation and Redemption”

Instructor: Kenneth Basile

Scripture(s):

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

~Genesis 1:3–4 (ESV)

Lesson Idea:

Because God is the source of all true light, His people must receive His light, live by His light, and reflect His light until the day when darkness is finally removed.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

The biblical story opens with God’s command, “Let there be light,” and closes with the promise that night will be no more because the Lord God Himself will be the light of His people. Between Genesis and Revelation, light becomes one of Scripture’s richest images for creation, order, revelation, holiness, salvation, and glory. The goal of this lesson is to help us trace the Bible’s theology of light from Genesis to Revelation and respond by walking in the light of God’s revelation, holiness, and salvation in Christ. From creation’s first light to the eternal light of God’s presence, Scripture uses light to reveal God’s life, truth, holiness, salvation, and final victory over darkness.

I. God Creates Light: Light Reveals the Source of Life

- A. Light is the first created reality named in Scripture, showing that all things including light and life depend on God’s _____ word.
- B. Light is not divine; it is created by God and therefore points beyond itself to the _____.
- C. The Genesis story starts in _____ darkness and uselessness, but the creation of light will make the deeds and works of God visible, which is true of both physical light and spiritual light, i.e., Jesus Christ.
- D. Light reveals things and persons for who and what they _____ are: God, humans, devils, goodness, sin, darkness, and so forth.
- E. As we learn in the Scriptures, it will take a special light, the light of God’s son, Jesus, to reveal who God is and what he is like: he is sovereign, he is the Creator, he is holy, he is faithful, he is _____, and he is compassionate.
- F. Paul connects the first creation of light to the new creation of _____, where God shines in human hearts through Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:8)



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Life Lesson(s):

- Light begins with God, not _____.
- Every biblical use of light depends on this foundational _____: God speaks, light appears, and life becomes possible.
- We are created to be dependent on God to understand him and respond properly to him, especially in a context of darkness, deception and sin, where our _____ masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:13-14)

II. God Separates Light from Darkness: Light Reveals Divine Order

- A. Light and darkness stand in _____ throughout Scripture, representing order against chaos, safety against danger, clarity against confusion, wisdom against foolishness, and life against death.
- B. In creation light _____: the greater and lesser lights “rule” day and night, showing that light functions as an image of God’s ordered governance.
- C. The _____ of light often signals judgment, helplessness, terror, or moral confusion. (Psalm 119:105)
- D. The _____ of light offers the blessing of godly guidance.

Life Lesson(s):

- Light begins with God, not _____.
- We see confusion, evil, fear, or disorder when people _____ the light God gives.

III. God Gives Physical Light: Light Reveals Protection, Guidance, and Human Dependence

- A. God gave Israel light in Egypt while _____ covered their oppressors. (Exodus 10:23)
- B. God guided His people through the wilderness by a pillar of _____ at night. (Exodus 13:21)
- C. Biblical writers celebrate the daily gift of sunlight as evidence of God’s sustaining _____.
- D. The cycle of dawn and night shapes biblical events, revealing both opportunity and _____. (Ecclesiastes 11:7)



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Life Lesson(s):

- Physical light is not merely background scenery in Scripture; it is part of the real world through which God _____ dependence, safety, and gratitude.

IV. God Appears in Holy Light: Light Reveals Divine Presence

- The tabernacle and temple used lamps as visible _____ that worship takes place before the God who gives light. (Exodus 25:37; Leviticus 24:2)
- The glory of God appeared as a luminous cloud, filling sacred _____ and overwhelming human ability to minister. (2 Chronicles 5:13–14)
- In the New Testament, extraordinary light accompanies supernatural _____, including Christ’s birth, Paul’s conversion, and Peter’s deliverance. (Acts 9:3)

Life Lesson(s):

- Considering what we have studied so far, how should the imagery of holy light _____ our reverence, worship, and awareness of God’s presence?

V. God Uses Light as a Symbol: Light Reveals Goodness, Truth, and Life

- Light symbolizes goodness and holiness. Evil resists the light because light _____ deeds and calls people into truth. (Job 24:13; John 3:20–21)
- Light symbolizes blessing and joy. God’s _____ is described as light dawning for the righteous. (13:12; Ephesians 5:8–9)
- Light symbolizes truth and understanding. God’s Word is a lamp and light because it reveals the _____ of obedience. (Psalm 119:105)
- Light symbolizes life. To see light is to _____; to lose light is often associated with death, judgment, or ruin. (Psalm 119:130)

Life Lesson(s):

- The symbolic meanings of light _____ naturally out of its physical properties: it illuminates, exposes, warms, guides, and gives life.

VI. God Himself Is Light: Light Reveals the Character of God and Christ

- God is described as light, with _____ darkness in Him at all. (Psalm 27:1)
- God’s glory is _____ through brightness, radiance, and unapproachable light. (Psalm 104:2; 1 Timothy 6:16)



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- C. The Messiah is _____ as light for those walking in darkness. (John 1:4–9)
- D. Jesus identifies Himself as “the light of the world,” calling all who follow Him out of darkness into _____. (John 8:12; 1 John 1:5)

Life Lesson(s):

- Since Jesus is the light of the world, we must follow him rather than merely _____ him.

VII. God Forms a Community of Light: Light Reveals Salvation and Mission

- A. Believers are _____ out of darkness into God’s marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)
- B. The church is _____ to shine as light in the world through holy witness and visible good works. (Matthew 5:14–16)
- C. Walking in the light _____ fellowship with God and with one another. (1 John 1:7)
- D. The mission of the church includes opening eyes so people may _____ from darkness to light. (Acts 26:18; Philippians 2:15)

Life Lesson(s):

- God’s people do not manufacture light; they receive it from God and _____ it before the world so that others glorify the Father.

VIII. God Will Fill the Coming Age with Light: Light Reveals Final Hope

- A. The New Jerusalem _____ with the glory of God. (Zechariah 14:7)
- B. The city needs no sun or moon because God’s glory is its light and the Lamb is its _____. (Revelation 21:23)
- C. The final promise of Scripture is the end of night, darkness, and all that _____ God’s life-giving presence. (Isaiah 60:19–20; Revelation 21:11; Revelation 22:5)

Life Lesson(s):

- How does the promise of everlasting light strengthen believers to endure present darkness?



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Conclusion: Creation Light and New Creation Light Meet in Christ

2 Corinthians 4:6 gathers the whole biblical theme together: the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness has shone in human hearts through the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Light begins in creation, becomes a symbol of truth and holiness, shines fully in Christ, forms the church as a witnessing community, and will finally fill the renewed creation forever. The question for mankind and for us is this, “Will we come to the light and live in it or will we continue in darkness only to incur its dreadful destiny?” In being light-bearers, the disciples of Christ must be light and not live shady lives.

Discussion/Reflection Questions:

1. Genesis begins with God speaking light into darkness. What does this teach us about God’s power, initiative, and authority over creation and over our lives?
2. The lesson shows that Scripture often contrasts light with darkness. Where do you see confusion, fear, deception, or disorder when people reject the light God gives?
3. Jesus identifies Himself as “the light of the world.” What is the difference between merely admiring Jesus and truly following Him as the light?
4. Believers are called to receive and reflect God’s light. In what real-world ways can the church shine as a community of light in a dark world?
5. Revelation promises a future where night will be no more and God Himself will be the light. How does this final hope help believers endure present darkness with faithfulness and courage?



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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Theme for the day: Because God is the source of all true light, His people must receive His light, live by His light, and reflect His light until the day when darkness is finally removed.

Early Morning Manna: Receive the Light

Reading: Genesis 1:3–4; 2 Corinthians 4:6

Begin the day by remembering that light does not begin with humanity; it begins with God. Before we can understand, obey, serve, or shine, God must first speak light into our darkness. The same God who said, “Let there be light,” shines in human hearts through the glory of Jesus Christ.

Reflection: Where do I need God to bring clarity, conviction, or renewed faith this morning? Spend a few quiet minutes asking God to reveal one area where you need to walk in His light today.

Prayer: Lord, speak light into the places where I am confused, weary, or spiritually dull. Help me receive Your truth before I try to move through this day in my own strength. Let the light of Christ shine freshly in my heart. Amen.

Mid-Morning Meditation: Walk in the Light

Reading: Psalm 119:105; 1 John 1:5–7

As the day becomes active, God’s Word becomes a lamp for the next step and a light for the path ahead. Walking in the light means more than knowing what is true; it means bringing our choices, motives, conversations, and relationships under the guidance of God’s revealed will.

Reflection: What decision, conversation, or responsibility needs to be guided by God’s Word today? Before responding to a challenge today, pause and ask, “What would it mean to walk in the light right now?”

Prayer: Father, keep me from walking by assumption, impulse, or fear. Teach me to trust the light of Your Word and to take the next faithful step. Shape my conduct so that my life agrees with the truth I confess. Amen.

Midday Meditation: Reflect the Light

Reading: Matthew 5:14–16; 1 Peter 2:9

By midday, the call to receive and walk in God’s light becomes a call to reflect it. Jesus tells His people that they are the light of the world—not because they generate light within themselves, but because they belong to the Father and bear witness to His goodness before others.

Reflection: Who might need to see God’s patience, mercy, truth, or encouragement reflected through me today? Choose one intentional act of encouragement, service, or reconciliation that allows the light of Christ to be visible.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, make my life a faithful witness. Let my words be seasoned with grace, my actions marked by holiness, and my service offered in love. May others see something of the Father’s goodness through me. Amen.



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Evening Reflection: Rest in the Coming Light

Reading: Revelation 21:23; Revelation 22:5

As the day closes, Scripture lifts our eyes beyond the present struggle to the promised future where night will be no more. The people of God do not endure darkness without hope. The Lamb is the lamp of the coming city, and the glory of God will fill the renewed creation with everlasting light.

Reflection: What burden, fear, or sorrow do I need to entrust to God in light of His final promise? End today’s time of reflection by naming one evidence of God’s light you experienced today and one hope you are carrying into tomorrow.

Prayer: God of glory, thank You that darkness will not have the final word. Help me rest tonight in the hope of Your coming kingdom. Strengthen me to endure present darkness with faith, courage, and joy until Your light fills all things. Amen.