



SESSION 4 - MORE HOPE

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Jesus offers us more hope so that we bring light to the darkness.

SCRIPTURE

John 8:12, Matthew 5:14-16

ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

These two questions introduce the topic for the week and get people thinking about the idea of light and darkness. You may want to have a story ready yourself to get the conversation started.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

As you walk through these passages consider the following about light:

- A light should be seen: we should be the same at work, school, home, the golf course, and the neighborhood block party. Jesus did not say you are the light of the church but the light of the world.
- Light is a guide: we are to be an example for others.
- A light can be a warning: "If our warnings are given, not in anger, not in irritation, not in criticism, not in condemnation, not in the desire to hurt, but in love, they will be effective." – William Barclay

LIFE APPLICATION

Let the Bible discussion lead you to the question of "so what now?" Help people think about how they can live a life that gives hope to others.

CHALLENGE

When you travel through Europe, especially in the countryside, it is easy to pick out the oldest structures along the road. More often than not, they are built on the highest point in the landscape; the vantage point allows visitors to find their way in the dark and be seen upon approach. Jesus is calling us to be like the city on the hill. He is calling us to readily recognize those traveling along the way and provide hope and direction as they journey. Discuss with the group how you provide hope to those around you in your life. Spend some time this week recognizing and praying for those in your life who are far from God.