



Let There Be Light | Shawn Johnson | 9.23.18
LG WEEKLY

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you were a Hollywood actor, who would you want to co-star in a movie with and why?
(Even if you are an 'anti-Hollywood' type, just have some fun here and play along)

SHARE

And God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. - Genesis 1:3

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And then God spoke! Now, there are thousands of books filled with exhaustive research and biblical analysis from prestigious scholars about the creation of the world. There are many biblical views on how it all came to be. We love to debate about whether the author is referring to literal days or indefinite periods of time. And those are all interesting questions, but the problem is none of us were there to see it.

What we believe with certainty is that God spoke, and it came to be. Genesis tells us that "God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness." What God creates is good! It is no wonder that throughout scripture, those who follow Jesus are likened to 'light' in the midst of darkness. When the people of Jesus are around, they should reflect the light of

Jesus.

Most of us grew up being afraid of the dark, but now it's time the darkness is afraid of us.

As a disciple of Jesus, we have Jesus with us. We have God's Spirit working in and through our lives. Because of that, we don't have to fear the dark; we are not alone.

Read John 1:1-14

Jesus was the Word made flesh who moved into the neighborhood and lived among us, why is this so significant? What does this tell you about God?

According to verse 4, there is 'life' in following Jesus which gives us 'light' in the darkness. What does that actually look like in our day to day lives?

G R O W

Read John 8:1-12

In this passage, when Jesus declares "I am the light of the world" He says it to an interesting mix of people.

Some were at the Temple to learn from Jesus. But others, were there to set a trap for him. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees wanted to get rid of Jesus because they were threatened by Him. In the center of it all was a terrified woman, caught in adultery, thrown at the feet of Jesus knowing her life is about to end in utter humiliation. In light of the event that just happened, let's answer a few questions.

What is your best guess as to what Jesus would have been writing in the ground that day?

Why do you think the older men were the first to drop their stones?

Why is it significant that absolutely everyone left except Jesus and the woman?

Jesus had the authority to forgive her AND to tell her to leave her life of sin, why are both

important in our own lives?

M O V E

In Shawn's message at Red Weekend, he talked about how God can change anyone's life. He told the story of his friend Sy and all the darkness in his life. But God had a calling on Sy's life and prompted one of his friends to reach out to him. What happened next was a miracle, Sy gave his life to Jesus. At one time Sy lived in complete darkness, but now he walks in the light. Not only that but now his life and his story is a light for others living in darkness!

Read Ephesians 5:8-10

Shawn talked about God saving us out of darkness and giving us the light of Jesus. And because we have the light of Jesus, we don't just stay there, we have a mission. We go back into the darkness with the light of Jesus and reach those who God is already pursuing.

How did the story of Sy and Ben effect you? What kind of feelings did it bring up?

How do you think God is specifically calling you to 'walk as children of light'? Do you think God has put you in someone's life or in a situation where you can be a light?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

Ephesians 3:20

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"

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