



Turn On The Lights! | Shawn Johnson | 10.28.18  
LG WEEKLY

## START

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

**What is your favorite family tradition this time of year?**

## 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.

## G R O W

### **Read Hebrews 4:12-13**

**What do you think it means that the word of God is alive?**

**The author uses the imagery of a double-edge sword to describe the word of God. What comes to mind when you read that? What do you think the author is trying to communicate?**

Have you ever read a familiar passage in your Bible and had a verse jump out at you? Maybe it was a verse you've never noticed or never really thought about, but in that moment, you knew it was speaking directly to you. We shouldn't be surprised when this happens, because Scripture is ALIVE and ACTIVE! God uses His word to guide us through any season we find ourselves in.

This week Shawn talked about turning on the lights. He reminded us that the best way to see is to open our Bibles and meditate on His word! The men and women in Scripture experienced just about every possible human emotion, from the highest highs to the lowest lows, and they wrote about them in real, honest, and helpful ways. For thousands of years, men and women have found immense comfort in reading these stories. Plus, as we study Scripture, the Spirit of God guides us, using what's written to cut to the core of who we are. So, when the author of Hebrews refers to Scripture as a "double-edged sword," he isn't calling us to yield it like a weapon against others. Instead, he's comparing it to a scalpel in the hands of a loving and experienced heart surgeon. God is using his word to cut, probe, fix, and heal our hearts! But to reap the benefits, we have to make time in our day to read, study, and talk through everything we are learning with others.

**Have you ever experienced Scripture acting like a double-edge sword in your life? Explain the experience to your group.**

**Do you ever struggle to dive in a study God's word? What are the biggest hang ups for you?**

M O V E

**Read Matthew 7:24-29**

**What is the context of this passage? In what setting is Jesus saying these things? Why is that so important?**

**What do you think "the rock" and "the sand" stand for? What does it look like to build your house on the rock? What does it look like to build your house on the sand?**

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24). It's never been more important to listen to these wise words Jesus spoke at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. As Shawn reminded us this week, life throws a lot of nonsense at us. Every day feels like another challenge, another difficult decision, more criticism, and attacks from the enemy.

Life can be complicated, but we shouldn't be surprised. Notice, Jesus tells us the storms are coming no matter how we've built our house. Sometimes we fool ourselves into thinking that if we just do the right thing, everything will go our way. But that's not what the text says. Jesus promises something much deeper and more profound than that. He says "when" the storms come, a house built on the rock will not fall. When we build on the proper foundation, difficult seasons may stretch us, but they won't break us. Instead, they will serve as opportunities for us to grow closer to God and each other.

One piece of building our house on the rock is surrounding ourselves with healthy community. Getting through the storms of life is way more doable when we have people to stand with us in the messiness. Jesus modeled this for us perfectly. When he finished delivering the Sermon on the Mount, he moved onto the next village. But he didn't go alone; his disciples came with him.

Jesus and his disciples went through the highs and lows together, and we need to remember to do the same. Here's a way we can practice this week:

Pick a verse to memorize this week as a group. You can use Hebrews 4:12, or any verse that applies to your group right now. Commit it to memory this week, then anytime it applies to your life in the next seven days, reach out to the group and let them know about it. Celebrate the highs and stand together in the lows.

#### P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for the people God has placed on your heart.

#### T O G O

*Galatians 6:2*

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

