



GROWING – A Life That Shines 5th July 2020 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

“What matters in life is not so much what happens to us, but what happens in us.”

Rick Warren

Engage:

1. What is the first recorded biblical miracle in scripture?
 2. Read Genesis 1:2-3
- **Darkness...** *the “default situation”*
 - **Creation of Light...** *intentional... spoken into reality*
 - **God’s pattern ...repeated in scripture (darkness to light)**

Framework:

3. What is the problem with sin?
4. Read and discuss Ephesians 5:6-9
5. Why is sin so serious?
6. How does sin dim your light?
7. Take a moment to be honest with yourself; what excuses do you make for your sins?
8. Why does God get angry at our disobedience?
 - *Sin creates separation... Then darkness has a way in!*
9. Why do parents get upset with disobedient kids?
 - Light is God’s gift to us. What does God’s ‘light’ enable?
 - The benefits of God’s light:
 - *Reduces uncertainty (1 Peter 5:7)*
 - *Removes fear (1 John 4:18)*
 - *See further (Jeremiah 29:11)*
 - *Travel safely (Isaiah 41:10)*
 - *Move faster (Proverbs 3:5-6)*
 - *Understand perspective (Psalm 23)*

- *Gain insight (Proverbs 4:5-7)*
- *Guide others (1 Timothy 4:16)*

**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”**

Martin Luther King Jr

10. What is careful determination?
11. Read and discuss Ephesians 5:10-12
12. Why is care required?
13. What does it mean to “determine”?
- To test, examine, prove, scrutinise (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals are refined.
- To recognise as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy.
14. Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 11:14
15. How does he do this?
16. How does God expose sin?
17. Read Ephesians 5:13-14

“We don’t look for sin, we live for Christ.”

Mark Wiltshire

“This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 1:5-7

18. What does this mean for each of us?
- **How can you shine brightly?**
Key actions and responses we can make...
 - **Prayer** - proactively pray into situations, watch lights go on!
 - **Patience** - Rely on God’s plans and timing – not our own intervention! Faith waits for God to change things spiritually.
 - **Purpose** – What else is God wanting to achieve in this situation?
19. Read Matthew 5:15-16?
20. What has God placed in you?

Communion Reflection:

1. Read Colossians 2:13-14
 - **Power of discipleship... You can beat sin in your life**
 - When this passage was written prisoners would have the charges itemised against them and nailed on the prison door. The charges listed every crime for which the prisoner had been convicted. When the sentence was served, the authorities removed the list and wrote on it “paid in full.” The prisoner used this as proof that he could never be tried again for those crimes.
2. Read and discuss 1 Peter 2:9
 - Sin is a reality (a prison) – God identifies it but breaks its power...
 - Jesus has been nailed to the cross for your sins.
 - All your sins (Past, present and future) have been paid for in full.
 - We have received a full pardon from God.
3. **Conclusion:** Live a Life That Shines Brightly