

Week Beginning: 5th January 2020

Worship Series: #1 in series



living sharing growing



lifegroups
live life abundantly

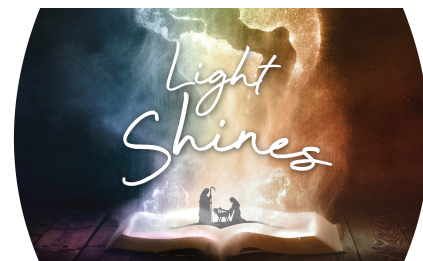
Theme Verse

"Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

Remember This Week

You are called to shine! When the light of Christ emanates brightly from your life, people will come!
That's a divine guarantee.



How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.

Psalms 119:103-106

Loving and Merciful Father, we live in a world covered in darkness, yet you have given us a light that shines even in that darkness. As we gather around your word, which lights our path, renew us with the Holy Spirit so that we might come to know your word more deeply and shine your light more brightly, for Jesus sake. Amen.



1. Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.
2. Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?
3. What is the darkest place you ever remember being?
4. Do you put lights on your house for Christmas? Are they still up?
5. What do you think it is about fire light and candle light that people find so romantic?

A-ha!...Eureka!...By jove I think she's got it!

However we say it...it's that moment we finally get it! We finally see our way through a homework problem. We finally see how to put the puzzle together. We finally get that last thing to fit in the suitcase or cupboard. We have that breakthrough moment.

It's called an Epiphany...the light clicks on, the penny drops...We see with clarity & insight... There's a sudden recognition/realization/revelation...and everything is clear, reoriented & transformed. What if that could happen for you every day? What if you could live 2020 with 20/20 vision? What if you really could live 365 days with sheer purpose...on purpose? What would it take for you to live every moment with intention, as if you just had an epiphany? What would it take for you to be an epiphany...a revelation of the light & life & love of Christ to those around you? That's possible when the light shines. And that's what we'll explore and experience as we continue to celebrate the coming of Christ...the light of the world... God's love for the world...who shines on you today.

Read Isaiah 60:1-6

6. What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?
7. In verse 1 the people are told to rise and shine, what gives them the ability to do this?
8. Throughout this passage, people and nations are being drawn to Israel. What specifically are they being drawn to?

Light has many different properties. In fact the way light behaves under different conditions is one of the more significant areas of enquiry in the field of physics. From our daily experiences most of us are familiar with lights being turned on and off, light reflecting and refracting and of course we are familiar with various sources of light. You only need to visit the lighting and electrical section of your local Bunnings to see the vast array of lighting





options available today. You might be familiar with the Australian Christian musical artist, Paul Coleman. He wrote a song which picks up on this idea of different light sources called, 'Sun, Moon and Stars'. The words of the chorus go like this...

**"I want to be the moon 'cause it reflects the sun
Don't want to be the star that shines on everyone
I want to be with you 'cause you're the only one
Who heals my lonely soul."**

9. *Does this passage from Isaiah depict Israel as shining like a star with their own light, or is it more like the moon, reflecting the light and glory of God? What implications does that have for our lives as Christians?*
10. *How does your life shine? If you had to give a percentage split between - "all my achievements and life are about me" and "all my achievements and life reflect the light, glory, and honour of God", what split would you give and why?*

One of the things about Australian's is that we pride ourselves on being able to detect when someone or something is not genuine. This has become particularly true when it comes to matters of church and faith. Too often we have seen people within the church doing things for their own self promotion or gratification. People are suspicious, they have met religious people before, what they really need is to meet Jesus.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-8

We know that God has called us to himself and has placed faith in our hearts. Whether he called us through our parents and we have been a part of his kingdom from almost the day of our birth, or whether we only heard him calling later in our lives, it is the light of Jesus, the 'Word made flesh', that draws us in.

11. *What does this mean for our attempts at evangelism? How do we intentionally let people see Jesus in us without making it about us?*
12. *Have you ever felt the pressure to say or do the right thing in the context of sharing your faith with others? How would things go differently if instead of worrying about what you have to do, you prayed and asked God to say what he needs to say through you?*
13. *How might your life look different if you gave credit for all your achievements to God?*

God says in Isaiah 60:3 that 'nations shall come to your light'. When we truly reflect the light of Jesus in our lives, people will be drawn to that light. When we live life each day with our relationship with God as our primary focus, our other relationships will be more fruitful and others will be drawn to that light which forms the central focus of our lives.

Isaiah 60:4 tells us to open our eyes and look around. What kind of world do you see when you open your eyes and take a good look at it. We might see a world that seems to be aggressively, if not violently, against religion in general and Christianity in particular, or maybe we see a world desperately crying out for meaning and significance, a world crying out for a new way to live because the old way just isn't working. How will they find that new way of life, if the people of God are not shining a light on it for them?

14. *What is one area of your life that might not be reflecting Jesus like it should?*
15. *Arise and Shine is a call to action. What is God calling you to do in 2020?*
16. *Often we fail to reflect Jesus, not because of the bad things we do, but because of the good things we fail to do. Choose one task that you often overlook that could bring glory to God and commit to doing that this week. Share with group for accountability.*

- * Praise God for entering our dark world with the light, life and love of Jesus Christ.
- * Pray that your LifeGroup might be a place where the light of Jesus might shine brightly and that you might be able to shine that light into the lives of others this year.
- * Pray that we might become more receptive to the promptings and leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we might better reflect and shine the love and life of Jesus each day.
- * Pray for an end to the fires we are experiencing, for those fighting them, and for those devastated by them.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:
Name, the light of Christ shines in you. Amen.

