

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read. Our Lenten Mediations are based on Warren Wiersbe's Book "Jesus in the Present Tense."

Monday, March 14th – Genesis 1:1-5 & 14-19

We continue our Lenten Journey this week by looking at Jesus' declaration, "I AM the Light." If we are to seriously consider light, we need to know where light came from—how it came to be. The wonderful poetry of Genesis tells us how the cosmos and everything began and demonstrates the majesty of God the Creator, the Sustainer of life. It is said very little can survive in utter darkness. The Genesis passage supports this. The universe and the world are created and the very first thing God does is add light. Not only is it added, but it is separated from the darkness. After God cast some light on the creation, he creates the heavens, earth, seas, land, and vegetation upon the earth. All need light to survive. Now we look at verses 14-19. What strikes you about these verses? Where is the light in vss. 1-4 coming from, if it is not from the sun and the moon? If both are sources of light for us, what does that say about our need for light? How does your physical body react to day after day of overcast and dark skies? How does your spiritual life suffer if you separate or deprive yourself of the light of God? How do these things tie into Jesus saying "I AM the Light?"

Tuesday, March 15th – John 1:1-5

The beginning of John's prologue is derived from the Genesis 1 creation story. Jot down a list of the ways John describes Jesus in this passage. Humanity is also described in this passage. How does John describe us? How is the light beneficial to us? How have we responded to the light? Consider today how light brings life in nature, in the birthing process as we leave the darkness of the womb, and in our spiritual life. Consider how when we are exposed to the light of life, we can see clearly the depth of the darkness that has consumed us. What good news from this passage do we receive that gives us hope about the darkness within us? Spend time today in prayer, asking God to send the light of life into you today, so that Jesus may shine light on your dark places and bring in new life. Do not forget to say thank you when it happens!

Wednesday, March 16th – John 8:12-20

We learned on Sunday that this conversation was more than likely at the end of the Festival of Booths. The priests had lit large candelabras in the Women's court of the Temple. But as with all manmade light, these were eventually extinguished, leaving the darkness. Jesus now declares that He is the Light of the World. What is the promise that comes with this statement? Who are the two witnesses to the truth about Jesus, according to Jesus? Why do you think the Pharisees were so annoyed with him? How do we get so caught up in our own traditions that we can't see Jesus? Isn't that an indication that we are walking in the darkness? If we do not know the Son, do we know the Father? If we do not know the Father, do we know the Son? Take some quiet time today and consider what traditions you worship over Jesus? How can worshipping traditions leave us blind—in the dark—to the Jesus in our midst?

Thursday, March 17th – John 9:1-7

Today's passage follows on the heels of Jesus' teaching yesterday. Warren Wiersbe points out that when the religious establishment refuses to see Jesus as the Light of Life in the world, Jesus departs from them and brings light in the form of sight to an outcast of society. While Jesus came to bring light to the world, the world still rejects him. Jesus does not battle or force the gift of light upon those who reject him, but rather goes to those who truly need and know they need the light of Christ. To be blind in Jesus' time left you as an outcast in society and in religion. But Jesus does not just heal the man's sight. Read the rest of the story (verses 8-39), paying close attention to verses 35-39. Jesus does not just heal the man, but opens his spiritual eyes as well to the good news. In verse 39 Jesus explains why he has come. Which category do you fall under? Are you blind or one of those who think they see and are blind? What blindness do you need removed, so that there is true light shining through you? Where in your life is there such darkness that you cannot see a way out? Jesus says he has come to bring you light. Ask that he does so for you today.

Friday, March 18th – 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

We finish this week on the "I AM the Light" study by looking at what Paul says. In this passage, verses 6-7 talk about the light of Christ and where it is found today. Where do we find it? When we say or sing, "This Little Light of Mine," is it our light? What would be a more representative way to sing this song? Whose glory is to be revealed through us? Now go back up to verse 4. Whose eyes are blinded? Who has blinded them? Consider what this looks like in real 21st century life today. How can Christ's light remove the blindness? How does Christ's light shine in the world today? If Christ's light shines through the church, then why is the church in the United States in the midst of free-fall decline? What does that say about the light of Christ in the Church today? What does that say about us here at Saint James, who have been declining for years? If the light of Christ (the Good News) is what draws people to God, what does this indicate about our light? Spend some time considering where you block the light of Christ from shining through you. What sin or lie of Satan are you following? Where do you need Christ to shine his light in you, so that this darkness of sin and lies can be revealed and you can repent? May the light of Jesus fill and renew you today.

Saturday, March 19th – *To prepare for tomorrow's worship please read John 14:4-7*