



Midweek Study Notes

31st October 2021

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The Light

On a day when many people celebrate darkness, Grace and Rachel gave us a timely reminder that we come together to celebrate the light of Jesus Christ.

Read the first five verses of John's gospel. Why is it so important for Christians to hold onto the truth of these verses, especially when so many people are celebrating Halloween?

In Grace's Jesus acronym, **J** stood for **Journey**. The prophet David described God's word as "*a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" Can you give an example of a time when God lit the way through a dark time in your life?



E stood for **Excitement**. Why is Jesus' promise that he came to give us "life to the full" - or as the NLT version of the Bible puts it, "a rich and satisfying life" - such an important message to convey to non-believers?

S stood for **Secure**. David spoke of the safety and security that God provides when he wrote "*The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear,*" yet so many of us are still fearful. Are there fears or insecurities in your life that you struggle to overcome?

U stood for **Understanding**. Read 1 John 1:5-7. In what way do these verses present us with a challenge, even if we have been a Christian for a number of years?

S stood for **Showing**. Read Ephesians 5:8-11. How do you think the church - as well as individual Christians - should respond to Halloween? Should we lock our doors to trick-or-treaters or deal with them in a different way?

Poem

Reread and meditate on the words of Rachel's poem **The Light** (see below). Are there lines or verses from the poem that particularly impact you? How does the poem leave you feeling? Spend some time praying for opportunities to "shine in the darkness."

The Light

There was a dark, dark planet,
Without life, without light,
No colour or form,
No beauty in sight,
Then God spoke in power
And set life in motion
And his hands crafted people
For his loving devotion.



There was a dark, dark moment,
Humankind disobeyed,
When Adam and Eve
Turned away and betrayed
The One who had given them
All they could need.
They let evil in,
Drawn to power and greed.



In this dark, dark world
God's heart was broken.
He'd told His love story,
His prophets had spoken,
But no-one would listen,
Their hearts turned elsewhere,
But God had a plan
To bring hope from despair.



There was a dark, dark stable,
But this was the place
Where that darkness would shatter
As light took its place,
Where a baby was born
Who broke open the night
and tore through the blackness
with his glorious light.



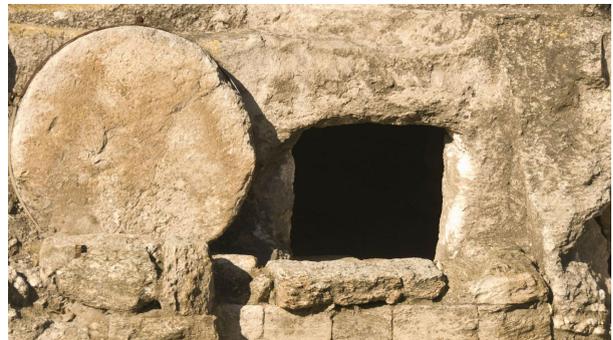
There was a dark, dark garden
Where men gathered round
And Christ prayed in earnest,
His face to the ground
As he agonised deeply
Over what was to come.
But he prayed in obedience
That God's will be done.



There was a dark, dark tomb
Where our saviour was lain;
He'd died on a cross
Drenched in our shame.
He'd been sent to His death
For the weight of our sin;
He'd carried it all –
Had He let darkness win?



Well, let's look a bit closer,
Examine the tomb,
Walk into the graveyard,
Stare into the gloom
And see what the truth is,
Is darkness still king?
Are we trapped in our night-time?
Still chained by our sin?



No. The tomb has no body,
The darkness dispelled,
Those grave clothes are empty
Of the body they held.
That Body has risen,
Christ is alive!
The darkness is beaten.
Now we can all thrive.



There's darkness around us,
But we know it has lost -
It's forever defeated
Our Lord paid the cost.
Jesus is risen,
Jesus is king,
Jesus has conquered
The power of sin.



So never believe
That darkness has won.
Jesus has risen -
God's glorious son!
He's broken its power,
Its hold on your heart.
You're free,
You're redeemed,
But that's only the start....



See, you too can bring light -
You can shine-out Christ's glory
You can liberate others
By telling his story.
You can shine in the darkness
Bringing light, love and grace
So that people see Jesus
When they look in your face.

