Homegroup Study  
Brockley Baptist Church  
May 2024  
LEADERS NOTES

Light of the World

Try and start on time. The first question functions as an ice-breaker (to get people talking) and as a time buffer – so if people turn up a bit late they won’t miss the main points. When the weather gets better we will be inviting all homegroup leaders to a barbecue, It will be mostly social and food – but they will be some time given to discussing how homegroups are going, general feedback, sharing of ideas, and potential ways that your homegroup can develop.

Q1  
Watch this 20 second video and explain what is happening (point a phone at the QR code)

A1  
If this introduces some people to QR codes for the first time – then it’s useful in itself. Beyond that, the science is quite complicated. The original inventor William Crookes misunderstood how it worked. The point is that light, which seems insubstantial, can transfer energy and move things.

Q2  
The word light is only used once in Mark’s Gospel, but is a main theme in John’s gospel. John uses the word ‘light’ 5 times in his first chapter. What claims are made about Jesus in these verses? And what do you think of them?

***4****In him (Jesus) was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.****5****The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A4-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26050a)*] it.* ***6****There was a man sent from God whose name was John.****7****He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.****8****He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.* ***9****The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.*

A2  
(1)That he is the ‘true light’(v9) implying that there are false lights.   
(2)That he is the only light “THE light (v4)  
(3) That he is the light for everyone (v9) – think about all the people who say I’m not religious it’s not for me.  
(4) John switches to present tense “The light shines’(v5) – this isn’t a history lesson, this is for now.  
(5) The light shines in the darkness(v5) This reminds us that there is a struggle in the world between the light and the dark.  
(6) The light wins. There is a struggle, but the light is victorious

Q3  
What does John say about himself in these verses? Is there anything that we can follow from John’s example?

A3  
(1) John says that he is a man(v6) – in contrast to what he says about Jesus that he is divine

(2) John says that he is sent from God(v6) he has a strong sense of calling and mission

(3) He says that he is a witness twice (v7 and v8)

(4) he says that gives testimony

(5) he is humble – John was enormously popular for a season, many thousands travelled miles to see him. It was Beatlemania! But he never let it go to his head. I’m not the light. He is the light.

If we are Christians, we also have all been called and given a mission. We are all to testify and to be witnesses (don’t go into too much on this because it comes up in more detail in a later question)

Q4  
What does this verse add to what we have talked about already?

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

A4  
(1) In John chapter 1 it is John saying that Jesus is the light. Here it is Jesus saying it of himself. He claims to be exclusive (THE) light and UNIVERSAL the light of the WORLD. Lots of people say that Jesus was a great moral teacher but they don’t think he is God. But that make no sense. Jesus claim to be the light of the world is either true or false. If its false, then Jesus is a fraud or deluded. Be can’t be a great moral teacher if he is a fraud or deluded.

(2) Jesus calls for a response to this truth that he is the light of the world form us. The call is to action – to follow (v12) and it’s a personal call – follow me. Christianity is not a set of rules, it’s a relationship.

Q5  
***14****“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.****15****Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.****16****In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* Matthew 5

If Jesus says he is the light of the world – how can he say here that ‘You are the light of the world?”

A5  
The moon has no light of its own – it only reflects the light of the sun but on a full moon night with a clear sky it is bright enough to read a newspaper by. I think we are the light of the world when we reflect the God’s light by living out the Christian faith

Q6  
Why does Jesus say a city built upon a hill cannot be hidden?

A6  
It’s clearly about a light being hidden or displayed – but I think Jesus is emphasizing the powerful effect of a Christian community. A single light on a hill might hardly be seen but a whole city makes so much light that it lights the sky and bounces off the clouds. We need to be together as a community and to work together if we are really be seen.

Q7  
Jesus tells us to let our light shine – is this different to showing off or blowing our own trumpet – and how can we do it in the next 7 days

A7  
Showing off is when we are trying to get glory for ourselves – there is nothing wrong with a bit of positive self-publicity – but if we are doing it right it will bring glory to God (v16) not to us.

Jesus says that we shine the light when we do good deeds. A lady moved into Brockley when we lived here first. I went round 3 or 4 times over several weeks to try and meet her – but she was never in – I was told that she was away a lot with her work. As I kept going round I noticed that her lawn was getting longer and longer. I went round again with a mower, she was still out, so I mowed it. Next Sunday, without me saying a word, she turned up at the chapel and came ever after.

Don’t let prayer and worship get squeezed out.