

Lessons in Light

By: Josh Blackmer

On the road to Damascus, Paul saw a light that was brighter than the noontime sun as Jesus spoke to him ([Acts 22:6](#)). It was that light that blinded him on the road ([Acts 22:11](#)). There are many passages that refer to Christ and the Father as light. From those passages there are lessons to be learned.

John opens his gospel with discussion of Jesus as light. “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man” ([John 1:9](#)). “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” ([John 1:5](#)). Jesus stands as a stark contrast to darkness. The word “comprehend” in verse 5 is not a word that speaks to understanding. It refers more to the fact that darkness could not overtake or apprehend the light. Later in the gospel letter, John writes, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life” ([John 8:12](#)). And, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness” ([John 12:46](#)). This light is life and frees us from the darkness that is in this world.

Not only does His light liberate us, but it also exposes the deeds of men. “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices

the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God” ([John 3:19-21](#)). Those that will not step into the light choose not to so that their evil deeds will not be exposed. If we are doing those deeds that glorify God, then we should not be ashamed. “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” ([Matt. 5:16](#)).

Our relationship with God and His Son is described in terms of light and darkness. “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself 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](#)). I am in a right relationship with God in the light. I come in contact with the blood of Christ in the light. Why would I wander into darkness?

May these passages serve as a reminder “so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” ([1 Pet. 2:9](#)).

What Should You Say to Visitors?

By: Selected

So, as you walk through the church building or when sitting in a pew you see a person who is a visitor. What do you say to them? It may be an awkward moment, but it is obvious that saying the right thing is so important. Below are seven ideas of what each of us can say to cause visitors to return again. These ideas are not original (I found them in a blog by Thomas Rainer), but they might help you become a person God can use in an amazing way.

“Thank you for being here.” Imagine the impact that saying these simple words would have on visitors to our services. Especially if they heard them many times when they come.

“Let me help you with that.” From the moment visitors arrive at our services, the warmth of these words can have a profound impact when they come. It might be helping them carry items into the building—purses, books, diaper bags, coats, etc. The fact you were there, saw their need and offered to help will not be forgotten.

“Please take my seat.” Covid-19 and social distancing have created some unusual situations. Imagine a family with two or three children arriving at services and are having trouble finding seats. It would be far easier for you or you and your mate to move to another pew and give your seats to them.

“Here is my email address. Let me know if I can help in any way.” These words spoken from your sincere heart reflect the life of Jesus. Newcomers likely have several questions you can answer.

“Can I show you where to go?” Visitors find themselves in a new place not knowing the location of restrooms, nurseries or classrooms. When you see them struggling, go

out of your way to help them.

“Let me introduce you to _____.” Bring them to one of the preachers or elders. If you learn where they are from or where they work, make sure they meet members who share this in common with them. You will be amazed how “passing a visitor” along to another member will impact their lives.

“Would you join us for lunch?” Almost every week you eat out, perhaps with other members, inviting them to go with the group quickly introduces them to others. Our young adults do an excellent job in this area. Think of how often Jesus ate with others. Studies show what a great impact this has on those who visit.

What would you add to this list? What have you said to visitors which has impacted them? Just put yourself in the place of a visitor and think of what could be said that will help them see Christ’s likeness in the church. Let’s work on this together.



THANK YOU
for visiting us!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Aug. 2: We will have a guest speaker from Home of Recovery and Restoration, Aaron Anderson. We will also have our monthly potluck luncheon after morning service with a 12:45pm service to follow. Please bring a dish/dessert to share with visitors.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Virginia Escojido’s sister, Patricia Zatopek, had a heart attack last week. She is now recuperating at home.

Virginia Escojido’s brother, Victor Benitez, who will have a heart stint put in on July 23rd.

Virginia Escojido’s brother, Paul Valdez, who was in rehab after his heart attack but had to return to the hospital.

VISITORS:

Thank you for visiting today. Please take a moment to scan this QR Code to fill out a visitor card. We would love to have a record of your attendance.



Summer Series Wednesday Night Classes

Every Wednesday night during the Summer session, the Adults will be learning about “Questions Jesus Asked” and the Children will be learning about “Biomimicry: God invented it First”. Please join us at 7pm.

Service Roster

Week of July 19, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Billy York
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Jake Jacobs
Offering..... Barry Lehtinen
Assist..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Clifton Rutherford/
Bryce Dolan

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody Kilgore
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Cody Kilgore

Other

Prepare CommunionKaty & Maya McCoy

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Katy McCoy.....July 20
EliJah Pickens.....July 21
Desmon Flonnory, II.....July 22
Eddie Serenil.....July 24
Kendall Terry.....July 25

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved,
put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meek-
ness, longsuffering;
Colossians 3:12 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of July 12, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....77
A.M. Worship.....102
P.M. Worship.....58
Wednesday Worship.....87

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

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