

## TAKING IT HOME

**1. Because of Jesus.** We often struggle to love others because we are trying to love with our power instead of because of Jesus. List several ways that God loved you through Jesus. Take a few minutes to thank God for His intense and personal love for you and ask Him to help you love others because of His love for you. Take time to pray this each day this week.

**2. Living in the Light Means Loving Others.** What is one way you loved someone else this past week and what is one way that you can love others this upcoming week that would stretch you outside of your comfort zone?

## NEXT STEPS

Which of these NEXT STEPS will you take in order to allow the God of Light and the God of Love to change you and the world around you?

- Do the insert *Deepening Your Walk with God*.
- Read 1 John in one sitting at least once (weekly if possible).
- Commit to Biblical living...no matter what.
- Live out love...because God loved us first.
- Share the light of Christ with someone in darkness.
- Trust in Christ alone for eternal life.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- ⤵
- ⤵
- ⤵
- ⤵

# Dark and lightness

<sup>5</sup>*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

1 John 1:5-7 (NIV84)

## Light equals Love

**Claim #1:** I have fellowship with God!

1 John 1:5-6 – See Above

**Test:** Walking in the light.

**Q:** How is your oneness with God/others?

**Claim #2:** I'm in God's light!

<sup>9</sup>*Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. <sup>10</sup>Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.*

1 John 2:9-11

**Test:** Loving one another.

**Q:** Are you loving others with God's light?

**Living in the Light Means Loving Others.**

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# Deepening Your Walk with God

For the week of May 22, 2016

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at the Taking It Home section and Next Steps from last week, how did last week's sermon cause you to live differently?

## MY STORY

1. What are other parallels in the Bible to light and darkness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Share a time when you were more afraid because of the dark. Why do you think darkness is so often connected with evil and bad things?

## DIGGING DEEPER

*Take a few moments and thank God for His Sovereignty over all things. Ask Him to help you to trust Him in all circumstances.*

1. **Claim #1.** Read 1 John 1:5-7 and claim #1 from the fill in sheet. Now read Matthew 22:37-40. What parallel do you see between the Great Commandment in these verses from Matthew and 1 John 1:5-8?

Why do you think the Bible so often makes a connection between our love for/relationship with God and our love for/relationship with others?

What does it mean for you to have fellowship with God?

What does it mean for you to have fellowship with other Christ followers?

How would you describe the relationship between your fellowship with God and your fellowship with one another?

2. **Claim #2.** Read 1 John 2:9-11 and review claim #2 from the fill in sheet. How are we in the "darkness" and why does John say that we don't know where we are going when we don't love others?

What are several reasons that we struggle to choose to love others?

How are we in the "light" and why does John say that we don't stumble when we love one another?

Look at the struggles with loving others you listed. How would you answer someone else if they shared those struggles with you?