

Bible Study, A Congregation That Shines, Week 1

Day: 1 My Money For God's Light

Read Matthew 6: 19-21 and 24

1. What is the real reason why people do not want the church to speak about money?
2. Why does the church have to speak about money?
3. How are we supposed to give money to the church according to 1 Chronicles 29: 3-9?
4. When do we give, in today's terms, a blind or sick animal to God? Malachi 1: 8
5. Read Malachi 3: 8-12
 - How did the people in Malachi's time rob God?
 - What does God's challenge to test Him involve?
6. What is the encouragement we receive from Haggai 2: 4-9?
7. Further Reading:
 - Malachi 1: 6-8. Disrespect for God
 - Malachi 1: 9-14. Give only your best
 - Deuteronomy 14: 22-29. Give your tithe
 - 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7. Give above your means
 - Matthew 23: 23-28. Jesus on tithes

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Day: 2 The Light Of A Church

Read Ezekiel 47: 1-12

1. Explain the following metaphors in relation to a physical church building.
 - A safe haven
 - A rescue station
 - A hospital
 - A broadcasting tower
 - A launch pad
2. Where do you see the prophesy of Ezekiel 47 coming true in:

- The first Christians, Acts 2: 47
- Your church

3. Do you think the prophesy in Isaiah 54: 1-3 has any relation to your church and your congregation?

4. What is the symbolic meaning of the cross on so many churches? Matthew 5: 14-16

5. What is the secret towards growth in a congregation according to?

- James 1: 5
- Acts 11: 11-17

6. Further Reading:

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| • Ephesians 5: 21-33. | Christ is the head of the church |
| • Philippians 1: 3-11. | Wonderful cooperation |
| • Romans 10: 12-18. | Let the word spread out in a wide circle |
| • 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30. | Every member a part of the body |
| • 2 Chronicles 7: 1-10. | Consecration of the temple |

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Day: 3 A Congregation That Shines

Read Matthew 5: 13-16

1. What are the most important focus points of your congregation?

2. Formulate a mission statement for your congregation.

3. What are the reasons why some congregations grow while other stagnates?

4. What are the factors that lead to growth in congregations?

5. What can you do to grow spiritually yourself?

6. What is a congregation's calling?

- Matthew 5: 14-16
- Philippians 2: 14-16

7. Explain how you act as a bearer of light.

8. What can your congregation and your care group do to be bearers of light?

9. Further Reading:

- John 8: 12-19. Jesus the light
- 1 John 1: 5-10. God is the light
- Acts 2: 41-47. A growing congregation
- John 15: 1-8. Bear fruit
- Isaiah 6: 1-7. The light is circling out

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Day: 4 Business People Of The Light

Read Luke 16: 1-16

1. When is somebody a business person of the light?
2. How can business people let His light shine in the business world?
3. Which sinful practices do we find in the business world?
4. What are the principles a business person can get from Luke 16: 1-13?
5. Name practical ways that one can witness on the "market place."
6. Does a business person have to give a tithe of his business income as well?

7. Further Reading:

- Amos 8: 4-8. Business principles
- Deuteronomy 25: 13-16. Honesty
- 1 Timothy 3: 7-10. Exemplary business people
- 1 Timothy 6: 8-11, 17-19. The danger in the love of money
- 1 Chronicles 29: 9-14. God is the giver of wealth

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Day: 5 The Light In The Marriage Is Fading

Read Genesis 4: 4-25

1. Why did God make marriage?
2. Why does the light fade so easily in a marriage?

3. When is the seventh commandment (Exodus 20: 14) disobeyed?
4. What does Malachi 2: 13-16 teach us about marriage?
5. How can the flame in a marriage be re-ignited? Think about the following:
 - Proverbs 12: 25 Words of encouragement
 - Quality time
 - Gifts
 - Galatians 5: 13 Serving
 - Physical touch
6. If you are not married, which thoughts came to you during this study?
7. Further Reading:

• John 13: 4-17.	Serving love
• 1 Corinthians 7: 1-9.	Sexual love
• Luke 6: 27-36.	Love in spite of
• Proverbs 6: 24-35.	Sexual temptations
• Romans 1: 24-28.	Homosexuality

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Day: 6 A Father's Light In The Home

Read Ephesians 6: 1-4

1. Discuss the following statistics:
 - Only 25% of fathers communicate more than 2 hours a week with their children
 - 50% of children watch more than 2 hours of TV a week
2. What is the reason why so many fathers are absent from their homes?
3. Who were supposed to take the lead with the initiation of Passover? (Exodus 12: 3-4)
4. What does Genesis 17: 9-12 teach us about taking responsibility for our children's relationship with God?
5. What do 1 Samuel 3: 13 and 1 Kings 1: 6 teach us about the neglect of a father?
6. What does Job teach us about the meaning of being a father? (Job 1: 1-5)

7. What does Ephesians 6: 4 teach us about a father's role in the house?
8. In which way can a father be helped to play a bigger role in the house?
9. If you are a father, think of a way you can overcome this problem of being absent in the home.
10. If you are a woman how can you assist your husband in this?
11. Further Reading:

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| • Hebrews 12: 4-12. | Our children's discipline |
| • Proverbs 23: 12-22. | Obey your father |
| • John 4: 46-53. | A father helps his child to heal |
| • Joshua 24: 14-25. | A father makes the decision for his family |
| • Colossians 3: 18-21. | Men as spiritual leaders |

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Day: 7 Leaders Of The Light Part One

Read Exodus 18: 17-27, 1 Timothy 3: 1-13

1. What are the actions the leaders of a church can take to increase church attendance?
2. What is preventing people from taking the lead?
3. How does Satan use a poor self image and an inferiority complex to keep people from taking the lead?
4. What are the characteristics of a leader?

5. Further Reading:

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| • Acts 20: 17-24. | The commitment of a leader |
| • Acts 20: 25-38. | Faithfulness, selflessness and perseverance |
| • Luke 13: 18-21. | The influence of a leader |
| • Matthew 5: 18-22. | Jesus chooses leaders |
| • Luke 24: 36-53. | The training of leaders |

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