

Family Devotional

From July 31, 2016

Set the Scene: Turn on a flashlight or candle and turn out the lights.

Read: Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-17

Reflect: What is the difference between light and dark?

What happens when you turn on a light source in a darkroom? Which draws your attention more, the light or darkness?

What do you think it means to live as children of the light?

What do you think verse 13 means when it says that everything exposed by the light becomes visible?

How do we understand what the will of God is? Go back to verse 1 for a hint.

Jesus came to earth to show us God at work in a physical way that we could better understand; Jesus was showing us an example of the Father. We are called to follow the example of Jesus, and when we do that, we become a light in a dark world.

Real world connection: The Olympics are coming! In the weeks leading up to the games there is an Olympic torch (a really big light) that travels around the world on its way to the opening ceremonies. The people who carry the torch are athletes that have competed in the Olympics before and are excited to tell others about what is coming. Just like those Olympians, we get to "carry the torch" of the Gospel. Once we have experienced the amazing love of Jesus, we are excited to tell other people about it so they can come to know him too! We don't have to carry a physical torch, instead we shine for Jesus in the way we love others.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Go to Children's Resources page at firstchurchtulsa.org to download a Family Guide for more "real world connections" between the Olympics and the Christian life.

Remember: As a family work on memorizing/mediate on Ephesians 5:8 this week.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light"

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for calling us out of darkness and placing the light of your love in us! Help share this love with each person we meet and shine brightly for you..... Amen!