

WOMENS REFRESH

come after me

BUILDING A LIFE WITH JESUS

May 3 & 4



AWAKENLV.ORG/REFRESH

pray for our

NATION

April 14th • After the 11am gathering

Dig Deeper Series

JAMES

Thursdays • 6:30pm

a verse by verse study

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

ONE CHANGED LIFE
EPHESIANS 3:1-13

WEEK 10

The greatness of the story is that Jesus meets us
Right where we are and gives us life while we were living in death.
Jesus is the One who makes the difference.

It has been said that the light shines brightest in the deepest darkness. We know that is true in the universe. While an estimated 95% of the universe is comprised of dark matter and dark energy, it is the 5% of visible matter and an even smaller percentage of light-generating stars that light up the void. In other words, in the overwhelming and vast darkness of the universe, the stars are the attraction. The power of one light shining in the darkness cannot be underestimated. Paul was that light, shining in the darkness of the Gentile nations as, through Him, God unfolded a mystery hidden for ages—his desire to bring redemption to all people.

While the work of God in Paul's life will look different than God's work in our life, the formula remains the same. God gave Paul a testimony, a calling, and a purpose. That is what God does in the life of every faithful follower of Jesus. There is a point of encounter and personal experience that brings life where there was death. A unique plan unfolds over time and is discovered through prayer, the Bible, obedience, and faith. And there is the purpose of shining God's manifold wisdom to everyone around us and even the rulers and authorities in heavenly places. So that all can see, even in times of great darkness, how wise and magnificent our God truly is.

(10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Pray that God will permeate your time with His presence. Ask Him to make His special calling for each person in your group clear.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Read Acts 26:12-18 together. Discuss Paul's testimony. Spend time sharing your testimonies.

Testimony: Your story of meeting Jesus and discovering life in Him through a personal encounter and experience.

1 John 5:11 "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

2. Every follower of Jesus has been given a special calling. Review the definition of calling below and share the calling that God has given you. While you may be aware of God's Mission, some of you may not know how God is leading you to live it out. Encourage one another. Share personal experiences of how God revealed His calling for your life. Make sure you understand the Mission of God and that you are living it.

Calling: God's purpose for His children is to fulfill His mission through His unique plan for each of them.

Mission of God: God's redemption of humanity and creation through Jesus, His Son, continued to be carried forward by His people, the church.

3. God wants you to shine His wisdom and grace in a dark world. How are you doing that? Be specific. How are you doing that as a Life Group?

Ephesians 5:8 "For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true)."

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Daniel 12:3 "And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."**

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Encourage those who may be unclear about the particulars of their calling, and pray for them to ask God to reveal His plan. Pray that they would take steps of faith to live it. Discuss in concrete terms how your Life Group can bring the light of Jesus outside the walls where you gather. Consider participating in a ministry like LV Reach or joining Awaken Events on a mission trip.

(5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Be a light in the midst of darkness. Resist the temptation to complain about how dark it is and choose to shine for Jesus.

