

Illuminate

Created to Live In the Light

Preamble - A Year Of the Lords Favour

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim (announce) good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, **Isaiah 61:1-2**

- His grace, kindness and love towards us
- Him being present with us and giving us Encounter with him
- The growing family here and depth of relationship
- The increasing growth in prayer
- Stewarding the favour is what is important - Joseph

Introduction

The first three chapters of Genesis are foundational to our understanding of scripture. All the key themes are there. This series focuses on the facts that human beings are:

We are created by design in the image of Creator God

There is ONE GREAT STORY WHICH DOES MOMENTOUSLY ACCOUNT FOR WHERE WE'VE COME FROM, WHY WE'RE HERE AND WHERE WE'RE GOING. ONE 'PLOT-LINE ' which reveals and reflects the true meaning of existence. The plot-line of creation, fall, redemption and final consummation contained in the Old and New Testament Scriptures... Rev

Dr David Hilborn

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
 - In the beginning God
 - He created, this is his design
 - We are not here by accident but by God's divine design
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- Created to be in friendship with Creator God
 - Created to express his character on earth
 - Created with purpose to steward God's earth and creation and be fruitful
 - Created to reach all peoples with the good news of friendship with God
 - Created male and female - God gives us our identity and helps us even in our brokenness
 - Created marriage as God designed and instituted it
 - Singleness We are all single for some time in our lives
 - Created to leave a legacy
 - Today - Illuminate - Created to walk in the Light

Living In the Light - illuminate

- We all have decisions to make every day - some are more difficult than others
- How do we know what the right thing to do is?
- Does it matter that we make godly decisions?
- Should our decisions and choice look different to those who are not followers of Christ?

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” **John 8:12**

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. [10] It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.” **John 11:9-10**

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. **John 12:46**

Handling difficult issues - Scenarios we may face

1. Honesty

- Working on your own in an office for the day, the boss is on holiday and no one will notice if you take the afternoon off..... What do you do?
- You notice your bank has credited £1,000 into your bank account by mistake. What do you do?

2. Sexual temptation

- Someone where you work is taking a special interest in you - always around and smiling, dropping hints that he/she finds you attractive and seeming a lot more understanding and sympathetic about your heavy workload than your spouse. What do you do?

3. Gossip

- Everyone where you work is talking about the new boss and especially his bad temper. It seems to be all they talk about in the break-out room where you can make a hot drink. What do you do?

4. Peer pressure

- The team you work with are going for a night out to socialise together and build up team spirit. You find out the plan includes a visit to a strip club. What do you do?

5. Life and death - terminal illness

- Your mother is suffering with Motor Neurone Disease and can no longer speak or move. You and your sister are sharing the care responsibilities and you have had to reduce your work hours to be able to do so. Your sister tells you that your mother wants to travel to where she can have an assisted suicide. What do you do?

How Do You Make Your Decisions?

a) God is the source of wisdom

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." **John 8.12**

I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. **Jeremiah 10.23**

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. **Psalm 105:4**

The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. **Psalm 14:2**

b) We are called to be light as Jesus is -

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5.14-16**

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.14-16 msg

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 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**

c) Make decisions using The Bible, Listening to Holy Spirit and in relationship with others

The Bible

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. **Psalm 119:105**

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.
Psalm 119:130

Holy Spirit

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. ..
John 16:13

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. **Isaiah 26:3**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [7] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

Community

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.
Proverbs 11.14

Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers. **Proverbs 24.6**

Application

- 1) Discern the issues - Whats really going on here
- 2) Make decisions based on who God is and what He says, and
- 3) New godly reflexes to the circumstances.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is---his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:2**

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. **Romans 12:2 MSG**