Walking in the Light

Eph. 5:6-14

Bulletin

1. The Light of Christ overcomes our darkness. *(Prov. 27:14, Eph 2:1-9, Col 1:12-13)*

2. Walk as Children of Light *(Micah 6:8, Heb 13:16, Gen 3:6, Eph 5:1-6, John 11:9-44)*

a. Confess our sins to the Lord. *(1 John 1:9)*

b. Confess our sins to one another if needed. *(James 5:16)*

c. Walk with the Lord, in the light.

Small Group Discussion Questions

(Choose 1 or 2 from each category.)

Ice-Breakers:

1. Morning person or night owl? What time of day do you feel most alive, and what time of day are you least fit for human interaction?

2. Rise and shine? What is the most ridiculous or unusual thing you've done to wake yourself up or stay awake?

Gospel:

1. Paul says, “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord” (Ephesians 5:8). Why do you think Paul describes our former condition as being darkness rather than simply living in darkness? What does that reveal about the human condition?
2. Ephesians 5:9 describes the fruit of light as goodness, righteousness, and truth. What do these qualities reveal about God's own character? Why would reflecting God's character be a fitting expression of our new identity?

3. Pastor Adam said, “We don’t push out the dark and then become light. It’s the light of Christ shining on us that dispels the darkness.” Why is it so tempting to reverse that order? What does it look like when a Christian lives as if the cleanup has to come first?
4. Read Eph. 5:65. Pastor Adam said, “The answer to these ‘empty arguments’ is less about a point-by-point rebuttal, and more about keeping our eyes on the greater joy in Jesus.” Why might joy in Christ be a stronger defense against temptation than willpower or better arguments?
5. The sermon emphasized that sin often entices us with promises of pleasure, relief, or acceptance. How does that help explain why knowing what is right does not always lead us to do what is right? What does it reveal about our need for Christ?
6. Read Eph 5:1-2. Why is seeing Jesus as our greater joy an important part of resisting the appeal of sin? How might this connect with Paul's description of Christ's sacrificial love in Ephesians 5:1–2?
7. Read John 11:38-44 and Eph. 5:14. How does the raising of Lazarus help illustrate Paul's words, “Get up, sleeper, and rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you” (Ephesians 5:14)? What does this picture teach us about Jesus' power and our dependence on him?
8. The sermon described a cycle: “Failure. Remorse. Promise.” Why does this cycle feel so natural to us? What does it assume about who is responsible for our transformation?
9. How is repentance different from remorse plus a promise to do better? What does 1 John 1:9 add to our understanding of what confession actually is?

Community:

1. 1 John 1:7 says, “If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.” Why do you think John ties walking in the light so closely to fellowship? What happens to our relationships when parts of our lives stay in the dark?

2. Pastor Adam described the fidget toy approach: pushing all the bubbles in on one side and keeping the others "hidden around back." How does image management show up in church relationships? What does it cost us in real friendship?
3. Pastor Adam described confession as simply saying, "Here's what I did. I know it was wrong, and why it was wrong." How is that different from the way we usually apologize to people, with explanations, qualifications or "I'm sorry if you felt…"? What makes a clean confession so hard?
4. Galatians 6:1–2 calls us to restore someone caught in sin "with a gentle spirit" and to "carry one another's burdens." How can a group grow in being both honest about sin and gentle with sinners?
5. When the "ruts are deep" and habits have someone tied up tightly, what kind of community support actually helps? What kind tends to backfire?
6. What would it look like for parents to model confession to their children: "Here's what I did, and it was wrong"? What might kids learn from seeing that?
7. Jose Caballero went from one locker room to another in the middle of a game. Have you experienced the awkwardness of changing "teams" relationally after coming to Christ or growing in faith? How did your friendships change?

Mission:

1. Read 1 Peter 2:9. This verse says we were called "out of darkness into his marvelous light" *so that* we "may proclaim the praises" of God. How does remembering where we came from fuel our witness? What happens to our witness when we forget?
2. Ephesians 5:6 warns of God's coming wrath. How do we hold the seriousness of judgment and the joy of the gospel together when we talk with people about Jesus? Do we tend to lean too far one way?
3. Read Eph 5:13 together. "Everything exposed by the light is made visible." How can believers expose darkness in a way that invites people toward Christ instead of simply condemning them?

4. Acts 26:18 describes Paul's mission: "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light." Who is one person God may be putting on your heart this season? What is one step you could take toward them?