

Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of July 14, 2024 - 8th SUNDAY IN PENTECOST:
“STELLAR: Shine Jesus’ Light”



Be still [2 Minutes]: As you hear these Centering Words, let us greet each other, greet the Holy Spirit, and begin with 1 minute of silence, breathing in the breath of God and allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit today:

CENTERING WORDS:

Dance before the Lord with instruments of praise. Know that you are adopted into the family of God.

OPENING PRAYER:

L: Gracious and Loving God, we gather today to seek Your presence and guidance. As we reflect on our theme, "Stellar: Shining Jesus' Light," we ask for Your Spirit to fill us and guide us.

C: Lord, let Your light shine in our hearts.

L: When we face challenges and darkness, remind us of Your constant presence and love. Help us to shine Jesus' light in our words and actions.

C: Lord, let Your light shine in our lives.

L: As we study Your Word, open our minds to understand and our hearts to receive Your teachings. May our lives be a reflection of Your grace and truth.

C: Lord, let Your light shine through us.

L: In our interactions with others, may we show kindness, compassion, and love, spreading the light of Jesus to everyone we meet.

C: Lord, let Your light shine in our community.

L: We thank You for the opportunity to gather in Your name. Bless our time together and lead us in Your ways, so that we may glorify You in all we do.

C: Lord, let Your light shine forevermore. Amen.

Be the Word:

Scripture Lesson: John 8:12

¹²Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won’t walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:16

¹⁶Consider everyone as equal, and don’t think that you’re better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don’t think that you’re so smart.

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 100:1

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!

Scripture Lesson : John 14:1

“Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Be present: [Being mindful of others and sharing time]

1. Take a deep breath. *How is it with your soul?*
2. What does Shining Jesus’ Light mean to you?
2. How have you seen Jesus’ light shining in your life this week?
4. Have you encountered any situations where it was challenging to shine Jesus’ light? How did you handle it?
5. If you were a lighthouse, how bright is your light shining right now?

Be rooted: [Bible Study]

We just completed our Faith Day Camp 2024: STELLAR this past week. We went on a “cosmic quest” where we had a blast shining Jesus’ light to the world. This adventure was designed to be out-of-this-world, packed with faith-building fun that launched us into a stellar experience.

Throughout the week, we will explored various ways to SHINE JESUS' LIGHT:

- When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!
- When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light!
- When good things happen, shine Jesus' light!
- When people are sad, shine Jesus' light!
- When people need help, shine Jesus' light!

Here are questions that reflect the theme and scriptures:

Theme 1: When Life Feels Dark, Shine Jesus' Light!

Scripture Lesson: John 8:12 12 Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Questions:

1. How does the imagery of light and darkness play a role in the broader context of John's Gospel?
2. What practical steps can we take to follow Jesus more closely and ensure we are walking in His light rather than in darkness?
3. Reflect on how Jesus being the light of the world has personally impacted your life. How has this truth transformed your understanding and relationship with Him?

Theme 2: When People Don't Get Along, Shine Jesus' Light!

Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:16 16 Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart.

Questions:

1. How does this verse fit within the broader message of Romans 12 about living a transformed and humble life?
2. In what ways can we practice humility and equality in our interactions, especially in a society that often values status and accomplishments?

BREAK: Play "He Is The Light" (on page 2) from this link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11274621>

Theme 3: When Good Things Happen, Shine Jesus' Light!

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 100:1 Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!

Questions:

1. How does the call to "shout triumphantly" to the Lord connect with the themes of gratitude and worship found throughout the Psalms?
2. What are some ways we can incorporate joyful praise into our daily routines, especially when we experience God's blessings?

Theme 4: When People Are Sad, Shine Jesus' Light!

Scripture Lesson: John 14:1 "Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me."

Questions:

1. What does trusting in God look like during times of deep sorrow and grief, both biblically and

personally?

Be transformed: [Call to action]

1. What unique gifts and resources does Faith UMC have that we can use to shine Jesus' light more effectively in our community?
2. How can we measure the impact of our efforts to ensure we are truly making a difference?
3. What barriers do we need to overcome to become a more inclusive and welcoming church?
4. How can we foster a culture of continuous improvement in our mission to serve others and shine Jesus' light?
5. What long-term goals should we set to expand our reach and deepen our impact in the community?
6. How can we encourage every member of our congregation to take an active role in these initiatives?

Prayers & Concerns

THOSE HOSPITALIZED/RECOVERING/REHAB/in need of HEALING & WHOLENESS

*Susan Slade

*Mary Jung

*Glenn & Millie Shimizu

*Dan Segawa (Jason's friend)

*Florence Nakakura

*Mrs. Nishi (Henry's mom)

*Mrs. Saruwatari (Alan's mom) for health and healing

*Kenny & Penny (doggie) Medeiros

*Archie Iseri (doggie)

- Harry Lum

- Rev. Ito

*Those recovering from major surgeries and in the midst of illnesses, such as Covid. Please know that we continue to pray for you. (Pearl, Paul, Diane, Destiny, and those we haven't listed) Covid (and for those who are sick, ailing, in need of God's love and healing)

Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord

● Susanah Bulatao - July 20, 11am, Chino UMC

● The family of Ralph Ichikawa in the loss of Ralph's brother James Tio Ichikawa

Let us continue to Pray for our Beloved Community and World

People of the Holy Land

Families rebuilding after natural disasters

Election year and our leadership

The United Methodist Church

Victims of domestic violence

And Know that He is God:

NUMBERS 6:24-26

**THE LORD BLESS
YOU AND KEEP
YOU;THE LORD
MAKE HIS FACE
SHINE ON YOU AND
BE GRACIOUS TO
YOU;THE LORD
TURN HIS FACE
TOWARD YOU AND
GIVE YOU PEACE**

