

WITNESS

Angry in the Dark or Joyful in the Light?

Week of June 11, 2017

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Luke 15:11-31

Living well-loved means we love the lost well. Having light means being light. You can choose to be angry in the dark, or you can choose to fully embrace the life God has for you and be joyful in the light. Throughout the Bible, God's pattern is to seek, save, and then send. But the reality is, we the saved-stop seeking God. We turn selfish and we leave the mission God has given us—the mission of being a light to the world. We may have heard God's call and accepted his salvation, but we so quickly turn away to do our own thing in the name of the Lord. It's time to wake up! The Church is missing it's mission of loving the lost and sharing the light of Jesus. God is most pleased when we become his light and his love to the lost and broken world. Where is your heart? Are you the light and love of God to the world, or are you satisfied living angry in the dark?

Pray

Father, you love me with an everlasting love. A love that is not judgmental. A love that is true and eternal. Let me reflect that love to the people you have put in my life. Jesus, you are the light of the world, and you have brought me out of my darkness and into the light. Help me shine that light into the dark world. Show me who you have put in my life so that I might share your love with them. I ask that you give me the courage to live the way you want me to: Joyful in the light of your love.

Getting Started

- When you were little, were you ever afraid of the dark?
- What does it mean to you to be a light in this dark world?

Digging Deeper

- Share some examples from Scripture about how God seeks and saves lost people and then sends them out to share about him.
- 2. Why do you think we so easily revert back to living life the way we used to before we met Jesus, with no focus on the mission God has given us?
- 3. Read Luke 15:11-31. Which son do you most relate to?
- 4. The point of the Prodigal Son story is to show God's generosity and joy over those who come home to him. How do you see this point in the story?
- 5. Humble found people tend to become proud religious people over time because they forget the Father's love. Do you agree or disagree? How can we keep ourselves from forgetting the Father's love?
- 6. There are three sons represented in this story: Which one are you?
 - 1. Angry, lost and starving inside
 - 2. Home and found and stunned by grace
 - 3. Religious and angry and resenting God
- 7. When was the last time you shared the joy and love of the Father with someone else?

Living Jesus

How can you ignore the lost, withholding God's love and light from them, when God has loved you so well? When you truly awaken to the extravagant love the Father has for you, it becomes easy and natural to give that kind of love away to others. Who will you share Jesus with this week?