

Illuminate Devotional Study— Overview

illuminate, *verb* \i-'lü-mə-, nāt\

a: to enlighten spiritually or intellectually

b: to supply or brighten with light; to make luminous or shining

Both definitions of illuminate above have something in common: light. It takes light to brighten a room. It takes light to see. But it also takes light to awaken or enlighten a person spiritually. Two different concepts of the word light; one is scientific and measurable, the other is abstract and subjective. Yet, we understand both ideas.

The Bible uses the term light in both ways.

Read Genesis 1:3-4. What do you learn about light in these verses? Where is this in the order of creation?

Now turn to the end of your Bibles and read Revelation 22:5. What does this verse tell us about light?

Both of these passages talk about a physical, scientific light. (The Revelation verse may have a deeper meaning, but it certainly seems to be referring to physical light.)

The scriptures also tell us that God is light; there is no darkness in him of any kind! He lives in unapproachable light. He is the creator and father of light. This is obviously something different than waves of electromagnetic radiation which travel over 186,000 miles per second. God cannot be measured in lumens, lux, or footcandles.

Of the New Testament authors, the Apostle John uses the term “light” more than any other. John 8:12 declares that Jesus is “the Light of the World.” John declares that Jesus is the light that shines in darkness, giving light to all and promising the light of life to all who believe in his name. It is this light that illuminates the world. Wow! Jesus is the light that illuminates salvation for you. *Pause and take a few minutes to discuss who Jesus is and what this salvation means.*

God is light; Jesus is the light of the world. But the scriptures also use the word “light” in another distinct manner. Christians of all ages are called to be light.

Read Ephesians 5:8. Who or what is darkness? Who or what is light? What happened to change the darkness to light? How are we to walk as Christians? What does this kind of walk look like?

Now flip to Matthew 5:14-16. Who should be able to see our light? What is the purpose of letting our light shine? What things in our lives can hide the light of Jesus?

We can say that physical, measurable light is necessary for life, but spiritual Jesus-light is necessary for eternal life!

Take some time to pray as a group. Pray for FLY. Pray that people would come to know this Light of the World as their savior. Pray that people would return home after FLY with a God-given resolve to be a light in their home, school, community and all over the world.