



Deep Impact Mission Bible Study

(These five lessons are optional for you to use with your group as you prepare to attend Deep Impact)

Deep Impact Theme Verse – Ephesians 5:8-10 “For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as youth of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”

Bible Study 1 – BEFORE the Light

Start by reading through the DI focus verse emphasizing the first part of the verse, “**For at one time you were darkness**”...

Discuss the following questions (give the participants an opportunity to share their answers as well)

- What is darkness? (*the absence of light*)
- Where did darkness come from? (*refer to Genesis 1:2 Emphasizing the darkness was everywhere and God separated light from darkness*)
- How are darkness and sin related?
 - *emphasize when we live in sin or do things we know God would not be happy about we don't want anyone to find out (we try to hide what we are doing wrong)... therefore, we "like" the darkness when we are hiding something.*
 - *Make note the verse says "you **were** darkness" not just in darkness*
- Why are we comfortable and sometimes desire the darkness? Why is it so easy for us to sin? (*refer to Romans 7:15-20 – break it down for the participants understand the struggle each person goes through with sin and living in darkness*)
- Once we experience salvation (asking Jesus to be Lord of our life) we will still experience the struggle of sin. Sin is still a problem we struggle with after salvation and an even bigger problem when we live in darkness (before Christ).
 - S. Cole (Dallas Theological Seminary) on Bible.org states, “I’m describing Paul’s experience here as being on a merry-go-round of sin. He’s doing the same thing over and over, in spite of his good intentions to the contrary. He wants to stop, but he can’t. And so the overall feeling is one of powerlessness. He knows that he’s doing wrong and he wants to please God, but he’s not able to do so. Sin gets the upper hand again and again.”
- Good news is: We do not have to stay in darkness!! God sent Light into the world as a way for us to overcome the darkness!
 - WHO is that Light? (*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 NIV*)
- Discuss how this study of darkness relates to serving on the mission field.

NOTE: Incorporate this to fit your team. If you choose, present the Gospel at this time. You may also choose to include activities appropriate for the age of the group and verse memorization.

Bible Study 2 - NOW You Are Light

Start by reading through the DI focus verse emphasizing the second part of the verse, **“but now you are light in the Lord”**...

Discuss the following questions (give the participants an opportunity to share their answers as well)

- How are we the light of the world? *(give them some history of when and why Jesus said we are the light of the world)*
 - God sent Jesus to earth to rescue us from our sin. *(John 3:16... because of His great love for us!)*
 - Tell the story of why Jesus came to the world *(the story of the man who wanted to rescue the birds is a great way to help them understand)*
http://www.everydaychristian.com/blogs/post/christmas_classics_the_man_and_the_birds_by_paul_harvey/
 - Jesus gave each of us the instruction to “be the light of the world” ... *(You are the light of the world. A city 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 men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 NIV)*
- Here is an object lesson that can be used to emphasize the importance of being the light in the world if you have an appropriate meeting room where it can be made dark (you can find other options online at various youth’s sites)
 - Read the DI verse again Warn the youth you are going to make it dark (have them seated and ask them to remain seated until the lights are back on)
 - Turn out the lights, and wait one minute so their eyes can adjust to the darkness. (Talk to them the whole time the lights are out.)
 - Now talk about sin and darkness using these two questions:
 - What does it feel like to be in the dark?
 - What does darkness mean in the Bible verse (from Day 1 of Bible study)? *(share with participants that living in sin is like living in darkness – spiritual darkness – because we are apart from God and cannot find our way to Him. Sin blinds us from seeing the truth about ourselves and about God)*
 - *Now turn on the flashlight and discuss these questions:*
 - *How does it feel now with the flashlight on?*
 - How are we light in the Lord? *(Look how much difference one light can make in the darkness!)*
 - How can we live as children of light?
- Say: Every Christian is asked by Jesus to be light in this world. Are you willing to BE LIGHT?
- Discuss how “being the light” relates to being on the mission field.

NOTE: Incorporate this to fit your team. Utilize this in whole or part with your personalization.

Bible Study 3 - LIVE As the Light

Start by reading through the DI focus verse emphasizing the third part of the verse, **“Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true)”**...

Discuss the following questions (give the participants an opportunity to share their answers as well)

- What does it mean to “LIVE” as the light? (*Talk about who gave us this light and the privilege to live as light*)
 - *2 Corinthians 4:6 – For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”*
- How do we demonstrate this “light” in our lives? (Look at Matthew 5:16 again ... *“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds”*)
 - *In what ways does your light shine? (allow the participants to share how they let their light shine School, church, mission work, etc)*
 - What does Scripture say about why this light can shine in us?
 - *Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. (Only by Christ living in me can I let my light shine Do you know that Christ lives in you? – note: be sensitive to those feeling the Spirit’s leading)*
 - *Share – Here, Paul did not say “I live in a Christ-like way,” or, “I glorify Christ through my behavior.” No, he said, “Christ...lives in me,” clearly telling us that Christ lives in His believers. The Christian life is not a matter of behaving like Christ, but of allowing Christ Himself to live in and through us.*
- With Christ living in us and making us the light of the world, what “fruit” do we show?
 - *What kind of “fruit” are we talking about? (Allow the participants to talk about fruit vs the fruit of the spirit – maybe sing the song “the fruit of the spirit is...”)*
 - *In the DI verse it refers to the “fruit of the light is found in all that is good” ... What is goodness? (listen to their definitions of “goodness”)*
 - *Tell the participants... while kindness is the soft side of good, goodness reflects the character of God. Goodness in you desires to see goodness in others.*
 - *Bible Hub had a commentary (MacLauren’s Expositions) saying,*
 - *If we are to do good we must first of all be good. If from us there are to come righteousness and truth, and all other graces of character, there must, first of all, be radical change which is involved in passing from separateness in the darkness to union with Jesus Christ in the light.*
 - *Emphasize the radical change that happens in us through the blood of Christ, making us a light to shine for HIM.*
 - *Keep in mind... light produces good fruit: goodness (generosity towards others), righteousness (doing right in relation to God and humanity) and truth.*

How does us living as the light of Jesus impact the mission field? Remember Matthew 5:14-16 Do you want to let your light shine or hide it under a bowl?

Day 4 - FUTURE...What Pleases the Lord

Start by reading through the DI focus verse emphasizing the fourth part of the verse, “**and find out what pleases the Lord**”...

Discuss the following questions (give the participants an opportunity to share their answers as well)

- What do you think pleases the Lord? *(let the participants share their thoughts and allow them to discuss)*
 - *The Bible in One Year Commentary lists 7 Scriptural things we can do to please the Lord:*
 - 1 – Praise the Lord (Psalm 113:1-9)
 - *Continual praise is the appropriate response to God’s generosity.*
 - 2 – Live in the Light (Ephesians 5:8-33)
 - As Christians, we are called to be a community whose conduct shines as a beacon to others, illuminating the way that God intended life to be lived.
 - 3 – Make the most of every opportunity (Ephesians 5:15-17)
 - Life is short – live in the moment and make the most of every day.
 - Lord, show me what you want me to do and help me make the most of every hour of every day.
 - 4 – Be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18-20)
 - It leads us to worship the Lord Jesus in our hearts and to give thanks to God – the very opposite of grumbling and complaining.
 - 5 – Submit to one another with love and respect. (Ephesians 5:21-33)
 - Lord, help us in all our relationships to submit to one another, respecting and loving each other and pleasing you.
 - 6 – Be humble. (Isaiah 65:17-66:24)
 - Through constant study of, and obedience to His word, God keeps us humble and apologetic.
 - 7 – Look forward to a world where everything pleases God. (Isaiah 65:17-66:24)
 - Lord, may this wonderful promise of a new heaven and a new earth spur me on in my desire to live now in a way that pleases you.

(NOTE: You know your team... adjust appropriately to help them understand what pleases God.)

- How do we **know** what pleases the Lord? *(allow answers and discussion)*
 - We must live according to the Bible the Commandments, and doing so in love.
 - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 NIV*
 - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Psalm 3:5 ESV*
 - *And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 27:37-39 ESV*

How does learning what pleases the Lord benefit us on the mission field? Silently ask yourself are you pleasing the Lord in your life. *(Give participants an opportunity to discuss the future mission trip and the light in their life.) Read in John 1:7 and discuss how our role is similar to that of John the Baptist in this passage.*

Day 5 (for 5 day DI weeks) – GROWING in the Light

Start by reading through the DI focus verse emphasizing a need for growth as we develop in these areas: living in darkness, being the light, living as the light, and pleasing the Lord.

Discuss the following questions (*give the participants an opportunity to share their answers as well*)

- How do we go about “growing” in the light, or becoming more like Jesus? (*allow discussion by the participants about what it means to “grow” in Christ*)
 - Introduce the word *Sanctification* (*ask does anyone know what it means?*)
 - Sanctification means being “set apart for particular use in a special purpose or work and to make holy or sacred.”
 - While it is not possible for any of us to be perfect because we are humans, God calls us to be more like Jesus. The process of becoming more like Christ is called sanctification.
- Sanctification is growth. Who helps us grow in our faith and becoming like Christ? (*discuss how we grow in faith*)
 - “In sanctification, the Holy Spirit ‘works in you, both to will and to work’ according to God’s purpose, enabling His people to fulfill their new, godly desires (Phil. 2:12-13). Christians become increasingly Christ like, as the moral profile of Jesus (the ‘fruit of the Spirit’) is progressively formed in them (2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 4:19; 5:22-25).” [taken from *Relating Faith to Life and Life to Faith*]

Final question.... SO WHAT?

- What does all of this have to do with Deep Impact and serving on a mission team?
- Does this really matter? Why?
- What are the future implications of growing in the light for my life? Are there any future implications?

On a final note ... Read the prayer of Jesus in John 17. Take note of how Jesus prayed and who He prayed for. (*Prays for Himself; prays for His Disciples; Prays for All Believers*)

- *Look at verse 20 ... who is He referring to?*

It appears that our growth in being the light of Jesus really does matter to Jesus.