

SHINE

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:2 (ESV)

❖ God is still there with you when you're walking through the darkness.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5 (ESV)

❖ What happened BEFORE the beginning?

- God had a plan for redemption.

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)

How Does This Plan of Redemption Work?

1. Through HIS WORD.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:3 (ESV)

2. Through THE WORD.

In him [Jesus – the Word] was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ... ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:4-5, 9 (ESV)

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12 (ESV)

3. God's Plan: First, He FORMS and then He FILLS.

CREATION:

- Genesis 1:1-8 – He formed the heavens / then vs. 14-19 – He filled the heavens.
- Genesis 1:1-2 – He formed the waters of the deep / then in 20-23 He filled the waters.
- Genesis 1:9-10 – He formed the land / then vs. 11-13, 24-27 – He filled the land.

SPIRITUALLY:

- He formed us in the womb.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalm 139:13-14a (ESV)

- He fills us with His Spirit and His word.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

❖ God is still in the business of shining light into the darkness.

- God shines His light on you to reflect it into the darkness around you.

"If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

Luke 11:36 (ESV)