

SESSION 3

STEPPING INTO THE LIGHT

BACKGROUND

In our lives we are called to step out of the shadows and to shine bright for the Lord. The lesson of shining out of the shadows was one taught to Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin which was basically like a group of judges in Jerusalem. He came to Jesus one night to ask questions. Yet later we see how in his life he does something that demonstrates how he wants to be a light for Jesus at one of the hardest moments.

WATCH SESSION 3 VIDEO

1. _____ of us, in one way or another, are like Nicodemus.
2. The question we face is how bright we are going to _____.
3. We can experience _____ when we step out of the shadows.
3. Where we _____ the most is where we trust God the least.

Answer Guide: 1. All 2. Shine 3. Freedom 4. Fear

DISCUSS

In the video, Pastor Brady introduces us to Nicodemus as one of the forgotten people in the Scripture, yet they took significant action. What were some things that Nicodemus did to shine for the Lord?

In the video, Pastor Brady shares how all of us are like Nicodemus in that we have fears, doubts, and questions. What are some of the biggest fears you had as a child that you don't fear today? What are some of your fears that you experience today? What is holding you back from letting go of those fears?

Pastor Brady referenced in the video how Psalm 139:12 says how “even the darkness is as light to You (God).” What impact does it make in your faith to know that with God there is no darkness? Why is it that we often retreat to the darkness instead of stepping into the light?

How can you move beyond fear to trust in your walk with the Lord?

DIG DEEPER

- **Read John 3: 1-3** // *Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

Why do you think that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night?

What were Nicodemus’s questions about? What have been some similar questions you have had like Nicodemus?

What did Jesus mean to be “born again”?

- **Read John 3:16-21** // *16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”*

What words or phrases from these verses help us to understand God's love for us?

What does it mean to "believe" in Jesus? According to these verses, how will belief show itself?

Read John 19:38-40. Why was Nicodemus's presence at Jesus's burial so controversial? How did he show courage in this moment?

DO

What step can you take this week to make your faith in Christ and the power of the gospel more evident to others?

How has your understanding of being a light changed from the time that you started this study? How has it changed your life?

What can we do to keep our relationships with Jesus the center of our lives this week? How might He transform our church and our impact on our community as we do?

Notes for Personal Reflection:
