

Study Series: The Overcoming Life

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Lesson Title: “True Wisdom” (pp. 131-143)

Session 10

May 7, 2023

The main point of this lesson is: True wisdom is letting the light of Jesus shine through us.

Focus on this goal: To help adults let the light of Jesus shine in them

Key Bible Passage: Daniel 12:3

Before the Session

Obtain 3-by-5-inch cards for each participant. (Steps 1 and 7)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Distribute the cards and **instruct** participants to list on their cards the top five things they need to make it through the day. **Invite** volunteers to share their lists. This can start off light-hearted, laughing with people who’ve got to have coffee or a sausage biscuit.

**Guide** the discussion to go deeper, **acknowledging** we need more than physical provisions to get through each day; we need things like patience, courage, and wisdom.

**Read** the main point of the lesson (p. 141). **Evaluate** how that compares with how participants would normally define wisdom. **State:** *In this lesson we’ll examine how possessing and displaying this true wisdom results in an overcoming life.*

Step 2. Light in the Dark

**Invite** a volunteer to read Daniel 12:3. **Explain** this was spoken of Daniel near the end of the seventy years that he spent as an exile in Babylon. **Invite** volunteers to share what they know about Daniel.

**Request** a volunteer read Daniel 1:3-8. **Ask:** *What did Nebuchadnezzar attempt to do with Daniel? How did Daniel display wisdom? How do wisdom and courage go hand in hand?*

**Invite** another volunteer to read Daniel 1:17-21. **Determine** the true source of Daniel’s wisdom that guided him and allowed him to shine as a light for seventy years (the time of Cyrus was seventy years after the events in Daniel 1). **Note** that Daniel continued throughout his life to show wisdom by remembering God was the source of wisdom. **Read** Daniel 2:20-23.

**Explain** that decades later Daniel received the discouraging news that the first wave of exiles to return to Jerusalem had stopped rebuilding. Daniel 10–12 describe his mourning and prayers and the words of a divine messenger sent to encourage Daniel and give him insight into God’s plans for the future.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 2 (p. 132). **Read** and **discuss** the Day One pull quote (p. 132). **Ask:** *How can this help us regard our difficult times in a more positive light?*

Step 3. Enduring Light

**Ask** what people who are not devoted to Christ might put on their list of top five things they need. **Consider** why many people feel like they need to shine, and how many actually ever do shine.

**Discuss** Day Two, activity 1 (p. 133). **Ask** what the ultimate end of those who try to shine for themselves should compel believers to do. **Request** a volunteer read the Day Two pull quote (p. 134).

**Evaluate** why one “who winneth souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30, KJV). **Invite** a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day Two (p. 134).

Step 4. Small Light

**Ask:** Why doesn’t God take us to heaven once we profess faith in Christ, why leave us here in this dark world?

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 1 (p. 135). **Evaluate** why that kind of life makes a very influential life.

**Invite** a volunteer to read Matthew 5:14-16. **Ask** participants to identify the children’s song based on these verses. **Consider** what God could do in this world if all His children lived out the words “this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.” **State** the song also declares, “Hide it under a bushel, no! I’m gonna let it shine.” **Ask:** Why might we, and how do we, hide our light under a bushel? What are specific ways we can let our small lights shine throughout the week?

Step 5. Missing Light

**Read** and **discuss** the third paragraph of Day Four (p. 137), beginning with “Dear friends, let us think of that.”

**Relate** the author’s illustration describing believers as the “lower lights” (p. 138).

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 2 (p. 138).

Step 6. Grateful Light

Determine reasons a believer’s light might grow dim.

Invite a volunteer to read 2 Timothy 1:6-7. Explain Paul was urging this young Christian leader to keep fanning the flame of unashamed courage to share the gospel and suffer for it. Request participants silently consider Day Five, activity 1 (p. 139).

Guide the group to glean from Romans 12:11-16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 ways they can fan into flame the light God has given them.

Discuss Day Five, activity 2 (p. 140). Explore how the descriptions from that activity give evidence of wisdom in a believer’s life.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Request** a volunteer read the Day Five pull quote (p. 140). **Read** aloud Daniel 12:3. **Ask:** *What are specific things we can do to shine like stars in our world?*

**Encourage** participants to write on their index card the top two things they, with God’s power, will work on so they can demonstrate true wisdom and let the light of Jesus shine through them.

**Close in prayer.**

After the Session

During the session you may become aware of participants who’ve never received Christ. **Follow up** with them this week.

