

Week 5 of Challenge #4
Week of August 9 – August 13
Chapter 13



BRIGHT MORNING STAR

*The star still shines...He's shining for you and me!
SHINE, JESUS, SHINE!
Send forth your words, Lord, and let there be light!*



A few weeks ago, my husband and I along with some dear friends, checked off a bucket list item. We rode our bikes through Cades Cove, TN. As the sun rose that morning in that beautiful verdant valley surrounded by the mountains of the Great Smokies, I was captivated by the brilliance of the SUN- pictured above. But even more captivating to me is the brilliance of our Bright Morning Star, Jesus Christ!

The Sun is **the real star of the show**- literally! Every day without having to be reminded, the brilliant, beautiful sun makes its appearance on stage for all to see, accomplishing its role with grandiose performance. The sun is the closest star to Earth, the source of all the heat and light that makes flowers bloom. Life wouldn't exist without it. It's the center of our solar system and by far it's the largest object. More than a million Earths would fit inside the sun. Without the sun we wouldn't have a solar system.

In Biblical times, the Morning Star was the brightest star anyone saw in the sky, just before daylight. The star of Bethlehem led the Wise Men to seek baby Jesus and the star led them to Him. Jesus, the Bright

Morning Star leads us to know God personally! Our Great Big God who put the stars in place, who rules this mighty universe, who puts all things into order is yet small enough to live within our heart. And He finds us important enough to give us a purpose and plan.

Jesus, the bright morning star, did the most dramatic thing ever done in the history of the world. He became sin who knew no sin that we might become His righteousness. When we become His child He asks us to **shine** on His stage. He asks us to play our dramatic role in our part of His story. The role that He has called each of us to play-unlike a part in a play where the lights shine on a great performance. The part we play- is to shine brilliantly so that others see Him in us.

There's so many great parallel's we could make with the Sun (the only star in our solar system) with the SON (Jesus, our bright morning star). When we shine for Him others are able to see Him as the real star that still shines for all to see. When He becomes the Lord of All in our lives, we recognize him as the source of all things; the ONE who sticks closer to us than a brother, the ONE who makes our lives flourish and blossom, the ONE who makes life worth living. The ONE whose plan allows for all of humanity to come to Him. We wouldn't have eternal life without the SON.

If you are a child of God, He is whispering in your ear: "It's time for you to courageously step out onto the God-stage that He has purposed for you." "There's the spot for you to shine for His glory." "I've given you everything you need to shine." "Will you shine for me?"

Love,
Jesus, the **Bright Morning Star**

Additional daily reflections as we consider our BRIGHT MORNING STAR:

Monday: Read John 12:35-36. Jesus begged the crowd to walk in the Light, believe in the Light and receive the blessing of becoming children of the Light. How can you respond today to the call to walk in, believe in and be filled with the Light? Pray to Jesus, the brightest light of all, asking Him to illuminate you.

Tuesday: Read Isaiah 60:1. Ponder the question, in what ways have you allowed fear to keep you from stepping onto the God-stage and letting your light to shine brightly for Him.

Wednesday: Read Philippians 2:14-15. Has God been whispering in your ear, calling you to take the stage and shine in his light? Pray the words of this passage, asking Jesus to allow your life to shine like the stars in the sky.

Thursday: Read Ephesians 2:10. What role have you been asked to play in God's story?

Friday: Read Matthew 5:14. In what dim place is God calling you to shine? How is Jesus leading you there?

**EE Prayer Network
Weekly Prayer Requests
August 9, 2021**



Adoration: *Heavenly Father, we worship You because You are to be highly exalted!*

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” Revelation 22:16

Bright Morning Star A Prayer of Adoration

Jesus, I adore You and I praise this name of Yours, oh **Bright Morning Star**.

In this name, we discover that You are the light of the World. You are the city on the Hill. We’ve got to let our light shine so that all may see Your good works and glorify You, the star that still shines. Thank you that Your light guides us, it illuminates our path so that we can follow. I honor You for shining Your wisdom, truth and guidance. For without it, I’d be lost in darkness seeking my own way.

I worship You for shining Your light on the hearts of people so that hope, restoration, and redemption can be found. I praise You, oh **Bright Morning Star**.

Humbly praise and adore Him for:

- His Search and rescue plan from the pit of sin and darkness into His glorious light
- His hand laid upon you so that you can go free
- His Love despite your sinfulness and pride
- His righteous judgement as a qualified and able judge
- His light that shines down into the world and gives consistent displays of His presence

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession: *we now humbly admit our failures as a people, as a church, and as a nation!*

Bright Morning Star: A Prayer of Confession

Jesus, I wonder how different my life would look if I truly set You as the morning star of my heart and mind. Forgive my futile attempts at trying to do things on my own and only placing You as the star of my heart and mind when I need you rather than always. How much wiser my choices would be if I depended upon Your leading rather than my own. God, I confess the many times that I lean on myself or the things of this world rather than on You.

Please continue being patient with me and extending Your grace to me as I turn from myself and my own wisdom and turn completely and wholly to YOU. Please gently lead me toward Your light so that I can have a compass of compassion, kindness, and love in my life. I confess that my life can be lacking in compassion, deplete on kindness, and now allow Your love to shine through me.

You are the guide, oh **Bright Morning Star**. You've given me the guide book to follow, forgive me when I ignore it. I want to keep my focus totally on You and not turn to the right or to the left. Give me a tender and responsive heart, so that I want to humble myself before You when I hear Your word. I want to pursue Your precepts, Your standards. Forgive my pride and rebelliousness when I turn my eye away from Your word. You are the hope of my calling. Help me when I fail and fall short to repent and return to You, Jesus.

Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Thanksgiving – *The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone!*

Bright Morning Star: A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jesus, thank You that You are a lamp shining in the dark places. You are the light of the world. Thank You for illuminating the path of my life. Thank You for not leaving me to my own way and not giving me over to fear in dark places.

You provide the light for me to follow. You lift my head when I am afraid to look up, Thank you, morning star, for encouraging me to keep going even when I can't see the possibility of a new day on the horizon.

Thank You, **Bright Morning Star**, for arising in my heart.

Praise God For:

- the **SYFW** at Bible Baptist Church in Upper Darby PA Shibu Oommen taught 18 people, on OJT two people made POFs. Two of the trainees Shibu met a year ago Rebecca & Rachel attended the SYFW and shared the gospel. What a great joy to see the fruit of street evangelism. Glory to God.
- The **SYFW** at New Life Church in Norlina NC where Randall Wood and Johnny Deal taught 14 people. Praise for Pastor Bill's passion to equip and for an engaged group of hungry witnesses. Pray for their next steps as Johnny stays connected and helps with a semester of EV2.
- for a fruitful Discovery Week and Day of Prayer and Fasting, TGBTG! Pray for God's favor on EE around the world as we obediently work to reach people from every nation for God's Kingdom.
- thank You for leaders who are standing up for freedom. Encourage and strengthen them.

Supplication – *Help us build our lives on You!*

Bright Morning Star: A Prayer of Supplication

Jesus, I want others to know this name of Yours and experience the blessing of living according to Your will and Your ways.

Give me insight on how to share Your name with those around me. Show me ways to inspire others to seek You more fully so that they will grow in their relationship with You.

Keep me on the path that has been illuminated by You, **Bright Morning Star**, so that I do not lose my way. I follow You humbly and with much gratitude, with confidence, knowing that every step I have taken toward You thus far has been completely and divinely lit by You.

Ask God For:

- many on-site prayer warriors to cover each Equip America training.
- all of the plans associated with the **Equip America** on Aug 28th in Manteca CA, Wilmar MN, and Dale City VA. Pray for Pastors to be encouraged and challenged to equip their churches to share the Gospel.
- for Your grace and mercy over our economy. You have the answers to every question and the solution to each issue.
- for the HFK’s training at Brookstone Church in Weaverville NC that begins Aug 11 for 13 weeks!
- for Your Truth about how to best handle the transmission of virus' in public places. We ask that freedom would reign in this nation; and we ask You to end Covid.

(Share Your Faith Workshop, Everyday Evangelism, Hope For Kids, Mentoring for Multiplication)

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| SYFW | 8/11-29-21 | Vietnamese Alliance Church | Orlando FL |
| SYFW | 8/21/21 | First Baptist Church of Rogers | Rogers AR |
| SYFW | 8/21/21 | Destination Church | Fletcher NC |
| SYFW | 8/21/21 | Philema Road Baptist Church | Leesburg GA |
| SYFW | 8/21/21 | St. Thomas Evangelical Church | Warminster PA |
| SYFW | 8/28/21 | Lakeview Baptist Church | Delray FL |
| SYFW | 9/3-26/21 | Vietnamese Alliance Church | Minneapolis MN |
| SYFW | 9/11/21 | International Bible Christian Fellowship | Lynnwood WA |
| SYFW | 9/11/21 | Trinity Lutheran Church | Atchison KS |
| SYFW | 9/18/21 | First Baptist Church | Clarendon AR |
| SYFW | 9/18/21 | Harmony Community Church | Peachland NC |
| EV2 Launch | 8/19 - 8/20 | First Baptist Church | Rogers AR |
| EV2 Launch | 10/15-10/16 | Rio Life Community Church | Mercedes TX |
| MFM | 8/13 -14/21 | Online | Arden NC |
| XEE | 10/14-16/21 | CC Palabra de Vida | Raleigh NC |