

A 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE

# LIGHT

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

# ***Why 40 Days?***

Number “forty” + (time period) is mentioned 146 times in Scripture.

It symbolizes trial and testing, probation, or the fulfillment of promises.

# ***40 Days in the Bible***

Jesus was on the earth 40 days  
after His crucifixion (Acts 1:3)

# ***40 Days of LIGHT***

Week 1      Where it all begins

Week 2      **L**earn

Week 3      **I**nitiate

Week 4      **G**ather

Week 5      **H**elp

Today      **T**riumph

# ***Where it all begins***

Then God said, “Let there be **light**”; and there was **light**. Genesis 1:3

בַּיּוֹם הַרְּשִׁי אָמַר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי-אוֹר

First recorded words spoken by the Creator God are “Yehi Ohr” יְהִי אוֹר .

# **Learn**

Jesus said, “For everyone who does evil hates the **Light**, and does not come to the **Light** for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the **Light**, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” John 3:20-21

People choose to remain in Darkness in order to hide from the Light, hoping that Darkness will eventually satisfy.

# ***Initiate***

He [John the Baptist] came as a witness, to testify about the **Light**, so that all might believe through him. He was not the **Light**, but he came to testify about the **Light**. John 1:7-8

Why are Christ-followers called to be witnesses who testify?  
“So that all might believe”

# **Gather**

but if we walk in the **Light** as He Himself is in the **Light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Independently and simultaneously, followers of Jesus are called to walk (live) in the Light of God. When this happens, hearts and minds and spirits and families and priorities and passions are GATHERED together and guided by the Holy Spirit.



# Help

Jesus replied and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.”

Luke 10:30



# Help

“But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, (1) came upon him; and when he (2) saw him, he (3) felt compassion, and (4) came to him and (5) bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and (6) he put him on his own beast, and (7) brought him to an inn and (8) took care of him. On the next day (9) he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’” Luke 10:33-35

Helping = Compassion = together suffering

# Help

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.” Luke 10:37b

Jesus said, “Let your **light** shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

First Melissa's passion is to make disciples of Jesus who:

REACH INTENTIONALLY  
CONNECT AUTHENTICALLY  
**EQUIP**  
CONTINUOUSLY  
LIVE PASSIONATELY

Be excited  
about the  
things of God

**T**riumph





***What does  
Darkness feel like?***

Psalm 25

David prays...

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust, do not let me be ashamed; do not let my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed. Psalm 25:1-3

Make me know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your lovingkindness remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. Psalm 25:4-8

He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way. All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. Who is the man who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. His soul will abide in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant. My eyes are continually toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. Psalm 25:9-15



Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Look upon my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Look upon my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with violent hatred. Guard my soul and deliver me; do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Psalm 25:16-22

# ***What does Darkness feel like?***

- Lost
- Regretting the past
- Facing conflict
- Uncertain
- Hopeless

***What can we declare today?***

# Lost

Do not enter the path of the wicked and do not proceed in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not pass by it; turn away from it and pass on. For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; and they are robbed of sleep unless they make someone stumble. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the righteous is like the **light** of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. The way of the wicked is like **darkness**; they do not know over what they stumble. Proverbs 4:14-19

People of the Light declare: I will choose the righteous path

# ***Regretting the past***

“for you were formerly **darkness**, but now you are **Light** in the Lord; walk as children of **Light** (for the fruit of the **Light** consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)”

Ephesians 5:8-9

# ***Regretting the past***

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

People of the Light declare: I have been changed by grace

# ***Facing conflict***

The Lord is my **light** and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident. Psalm 27:1-3

# ***Facing conflict***

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

Psalm 27:4-6

People of the Light declare: The Lord is my Defender

# ***Uncertain***

Daniel said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the **darkness**, and the **light** dwells with Him. To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for You have given me wisdom and power; even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, for You have made known to us the king’s matter.” Daniel 2:20-23

People of the Light declare: God knows what is in the darkness



# ***Hopeless***

But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; though I dwell in darkness, the Lord is a light for me. Micah 7:7-8

People of the Light declare: Though I fall I will rise

A dark blue space background with a starry field. On the left, a large, dark, spherical planet is partially visible. On the right, a portion of the Earth is visible, showing its blue oceans and white clouds. The text is centered in the middle of the frame.

***What does the Triumph  
of the Light look like?***

God saw that the **light** was good;  
and God separated the **light** from  
the **darkness**. Genesis 1:4

בִּירָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאֹר כִּי-טוֹב וַיִּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ׃

People of the Light declare: When God does a work, it is ALWAYS good

In Him was life, and the life was the **Light** of men. The **Light** shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** did not comprehend it. John 1:4-5 (NAS)

Life was in Him, and that life was the **Light** of men. That **Light** shines in the **darkness**, yet the **darkness** did not overcome it. John 1:4-5 (HCSB)

καταλαμβάνω katalambano

Greek verb meaning “to lay hold of so as to make one’s own, to obtain, attain to in order to understand, perceive, learn, comprehend.”

Jesus said, "I have come as **Light** into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in **darkness**."

John 12:46

People of the Light declare: I believe in Messiah Jesus

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying,  
“I am the **Light** of the world; he who  
follows Me will not walk in the **darkness**,  
but will have the **Light** of life.” John 8:12

People of the Light declare: I will follow Messiah Jesus

*As our 40 Day journey ends...*

# ***Find and Give Away the LIGHT***

Creator God is where it all begins

Learn who the Light is

Initiate spiritual conversations

Gather with your church family

Help others in need

Triumph over the Darkness

# **People of the *Light* declare:**

- I will choose the righteous path
- I have been changed by grace
- The Lord is my Defender
- God knows what is in the darkness
- Though I fall I will rise
- When God does a work, it is ALWAYS good
- I believe in Messiah Jesus
- I will follow Messiah Jesus