

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE

Stellar

SERIES

DATE

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Various

SYNOPSIS

Following the theme of VBS, we are to shine Jesus' light in the world.

HIGHLIGHTS



VBS this week was called Stellar and it focused on all the lights in the sky and how we are to shine the light of Jesus in this world.

Shine His Light – music video; with VBS kids

☞ Stellar

☞ Genesis 1:1-5

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. **3** And God said, “**Let there be light,**” and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

In the very beginning of creation, the first words we hear from God are “**let there be light.**” From the very start he wanted light to shine. We also see just a few verses later that he created lights in the sky to separate the day and night and to serve as signs to mark the times, as well as to give light on the earth. Genesis 1:14-15 says, “And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.” Light is a big deal to our Lord.

Interesting facts:

The Sun has a diameter of around 864,000 miles. This is 109 times greater than the diameter of earth. The Sun is so massive that it accounts for 99.86% of the total mass of the entire Solar System. The Sun’s core is about 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. The connection and interactions between the Sun and Earth drive the seasons, ocean currents, weather, climate, radiation belts, and aurorae.

There are millions of stars out there, however, we can only see a small fraction of that with the naked eye. On a really exceptional night, with no Moon and far from any source of lights, a person with very good eyesight may be able to see 2500 stars at any one time. But also, on a good night, you can see at least 19 quadrillion miles away, the approximate distance to the star Deneb in Cygnus, which is prominent in the evening skies of Fall and Winter and bright enough to be seen virtually anywhere in the Northern hemisphere. That’s a star, but both the Andromeda Galaxy and the Triangulum Galaxy are also visible under certain conditions, and are roughly 15 and 18 quintillion miles away!

God set those stars in place to give light on the earth and to be signs in the sky, as well as to mark seasons and years. Stars helped people cross oceans and explore new lands before there was GPS or satellites.



God started everything with light. He filled the vast emptiness and darkness of space with millions and millions of lights. He created the sun to fill the earth with light, and then at a pivotal point in history, he sent even more light to this world. This time, it was a spiritual light. John the Baptist prophesied about him and the gospel of John wrote about him.

☞ **John 1:1-9**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind... **The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.**

☞ **Jesus is the light of the world.** He said so himself in **John 8:12...** “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, **“I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” His light is available to everyone who follows him. This world is a very dark place, spiritually, and we need the light he offers. We can have it, if we choose to follow him.

Once you choose to follow Christ, you partner with him to bring light into this dark world. He actually says **we are the light of the world.**

☞ **Matthew 5:14-16**

14 **“You are the light of the world.** A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Since we are the light of the world along with Christ, we need to let our light shine. This world is in so much darkness that people are actually spiritually blind and lost. They need the light of the Lord to show them the way. In VBS we learned this bible point:

☞ **When life feels dark... shine Jesus’ light!**

How can we let our light shine? Ephesians 5:8-9 gets us started: “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light **9** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)”

☞ **Shine the light of Jesus with:**

Goodness = uprightness of heart, virtue, kindness

Righteousness = things approved by God, integrity, purity

Truth = real; factual; free from deceit or pretense

1 Thessalonians 5:8 adds some thoughts: “since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

☞ **Self-controlled** = sober; calm and collected



David Guzik... Sober doesn't mean humorless. It has in mind someone who *knows the proper value of things*, and therefore doesn't get too excited about the things of this world. The person who lives his or her life only for fun and entertainment isn't sober.

☞ **Faith** = conviction of truth; reliability (faithfulness)

Hope = confident expectation

Love = affection; benevolence

1 John 2:9-10

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

An important part of shining Jesus' light is in how we treat other people. We are social creatures, interacting with others regularly, and how we treat others is important to God. God wants us to love others. In VBS we said it this way:

☞ **When people don't get along... shine Jesus' light!**

☞ **When people are sad... shine Jesus' light!**

From very early on in creation, people saw figures in the stars, which are now called constellations. The stars in a constellation might look like they're all side by side and about the same size. But some are closer to us, and others are really far away! If stars that are so far away from each other can work together to form a picture, we can work well with others, and help others—even if they're different from us. And, when we do, we form a picture of Christ.

☞ **When people need help... shine Jesus' light!**

1 **Peter 2:9** gives a final thought on shining the light of Jesus: "But you are a chosen people, a ☞ royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may **declare the praises** of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

When you look up in the sky at night, you can see so many reasons to **praise God!** Stars, moon, planets—they're all showing us God's power and creativity! When I think of the vastness of outer space and realize that God is greater still, it astounds me. Yet, this all-powerful, amazing Creator is very interested in us on a personal level. He listens to you when you pray. He even knows your thoughts. He provides everything you need for life and godliness. He loves you so much that he was willing to die for you. He deserves our praise!

☞ **When good things happen... shine Jesus' light!**

House of the Lord – music video; with VBS kids