

FOR THOSE IN DARKNESS...

LET THERE BE LIGHT

FROM DIRECTOR KEVIN SORBO



CAMPAIGN GUIDE

LET THERE BE LIGHT CAMPAIGN GUIDE

*A love story for the ages.
Reeling from tragic loss, a man struggles to renew himself,
regain his family, and reimagine his faith.*

Dr. Sol Harkens has dedicated his life to the cause of atheism. As a best-selling author and a celebrity debater, he has managed to parlay his attacks on Christianity into a very lucrative business. He is not only anxious to share his disdain for God, but he also finds great joy and satisfaction in attacking his Christian opponents on the stage. But even with all the fame and success, Sol is empty and distraught on the inside and his increasing reliance on alcohol to numb the pain is only making things worse.

His New York party lifestyle has isolated him from his ex-wife Katy and their two remaining sons. After losing their first-born to cancer, Katy's unrelenting faith in God was something that Sol grew to resent and he tells Katy that he just got sick and tired of her praying for his soul.

Sol's self-destructive habits eventually catch up to him and a serious car crash leaves him clinically dead for four minutes before he is finally resuscitated by some heroic first responders. It's a miracle that he's still alive, but what really changes Sol's outlook on life is what happens during those four minutes. It's a four word message that refuses to let him go despite his best efforts to deny it.

With the support of Katy's unwavering love and faith, and his own questions about what he may or may not have actually experienced, Sol struggles to find meaning and purpose in the words **LET THERE BE LIGHT**.

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. — Hebrews 11:1

A TIMELY MESSAGE OF HOPE AND LIGHT

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." — 1 John 1:15

Hurricanes. Fires. Political dissension. Looming military conflict. Our world is filled with doubt, fear, and heartbreak. As humans we see and experience so much darkness throughout our lives. It is difficult, and at times, almost impossible to find hope when we are living in such tumultuous times. Yet in our darkest hours, God is with us, comforting us when we face grief and pursuing us when we begin to lose faith.

Even when we feel like everything in life is going our way, things can change in the blink of an eye. Our lives can go from contentment and happiness one day to complete pain and despair the next. Questions can begin to fill our minds of how God could allow bad things to happen to good people. At times this tension between God and suffering can lead to a crisis of faith. Yet God uses these challenging situations to draw us to himself and remind us that he is the Prince of Peace, the Light of the world, and the Hope of our salvation. Because of this, we can be confident that even in the midst of tragedy and heartbreak, God is with us and will sustain us through any situation. That is why, as believers, we have the answer to a world searching for hope in the midst of hurt, doubt, and pain.

This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. — Hebrews 6:1

IN CHRIST YOU HAVE

Hope... in the midst of darkness

Hope ... in the face of loss

Hope... that this is not the end



HOPE IS THE BRIDGE TO FAITH

“Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don’t. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, nothing is impossible. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope.”—John Piper

Offering people hope is one of the most important things you can do as a church, for hope is the bridge to faith. As you consider **LET THERE BE LIGHT** and how it can be a ministry tool for your church, be sure to look both inside and outside your walls. Looking inside, even those who are Christ followers can get swallowed up in the darkness of this present world, and their faith can grow thin. You have an opportunity, with this movie, to provide a vivid and powerful reminder of the hope that is within them and to let this hope grow and transform their faith. And for those outside, where disbelief runs strong, seeing the light of hope, maybe for the first time, can be the very thing that propels them to take those first steps into faith that leads to believing Jesus really is the light of the world.

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.” — John 8:12

It is our prayer that **LET THERE BE LIGHT** gives your ministry the opportunity to shine the light of Christ into the darkness that both believers and unbelievers may find themselves in—to reveal the hope they have in Jesus. The resources in this campaign will guide you along the steps to have maximum impact in your community. The inspiring story of the film, combined with the power of the Holy Spirit, will provide the catalyst that leads to life transformation.



WHY MOVIES IN MINISTRY?

*“Most denominations train missionaries to understand and embrace a specific culture before they’re sent abroad. If we want to communicate the gospel to the rising generations of Americans, we’re going to have to discern our new cultural framework, and it’s my conviction that understanding movies is a key to that process.” —Doug Cummings, *Movies & Ministry**

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Life is full of unexpected twists and turns and, when we experience difficult circumstances, it can cause us to wonder if God is really there and, at times, even shake our faith. But hope is the antidote for a shaken faith. Think about a time when you felt the pain of loss or tragedy. A little hope goes a long way in filling your soul and fueling your faith.

For Dr. Sol Harkens, the tragic death of his son barred any door that may have been open to him for faith. Sol’s anger over this loss has driven him to become a proselytizing atheist, a best-selling author, and a celebrity debater that mocks Christianity. But the relentless faith of his ex-wife, Katy, and a near death experience caused by his destructive lifestyle, leads him on a journey to question that which he’s worked so hard to disprove—death is not the end. And in answering that question, a seed of hope begins to grow. A seed that leads to faith.

That question is the very reason why movies matter so deeply in ministry. Unbelievers are filled with questions about the truth of Christianity and even believers often face questions about their faith. Now to be sure, not everyone who views **LET THERE BE LIGHT** will be able to relate to the pain of losing a child. Most will not readily identify with a near-death experience. And they don’t have to. Everyone knows what it’s like to face a loss, and everyone will enter into a crisis of some sort that causes them to question their deepest convictions. And it’s in this place of loss and in the midst of questioning where people need the light of hope to shine the brightest.

Seeing familiar themes on screen and being able to identify ways in which those stories and relationships play out in reality doesn’t just provide entertainment but revelation and then motivation. When that motivation makes a spiritual connection, movies matter for ministry. Story is the language of the heart, this is why Jesus often spoke in parables, and films may be the ultimate form of storytelling. Because of this, movies are able to affect people at a heart level and true transformation takes place in the heart.

There is one other important reason why each new faith-based film matters for ministry. With more hitting theaters every year, their success is measured by the standards of every other movie. How well a film performs financially in its opening weekend determines how long it remains in theaters. How well it performs in theaters determines how much money will be invested into other films like it in the future. If we want to see more films that depict the reality of faith and the context of cultural movements, each film released needs our support. Those levels of box office support will not only produce heart transformation in the future, but unique ministry opportunities in the moment.

This campaign guide is a toolkit for engaging the release of LET THERE BE LIGHT and utilizing the power of a story and the idea of a transformative journey that draws people in and makes an impact...at a heart level.

And his name will be the hope of all the world. — Matthew 12:21



CAMPAIGN STRATEGY TIMELINE

Your campaign's success will be directly proportionate to how well you plan and follow up. In order to maximize your **LET THERE BE LIGHT** ministry campaign in your church and community, use the following timeline to structure your planning, your events, and your follow-up.

BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN

- Get buy-in from your Pastor and senior leadership
- Assemble your team
- Cast vision and develop goals
- Begin praying daily
- Decide on your strategy
- Plan your events and message series
- Set your budget. Include team meeting expenses, promotions, communications, events, and any curriculum
- Purchase promotional materials
- Customize additional mass-media options
- Recruit testimonies from team members or volunteer ministers in your church.
- Continue event planning
- Launch small-group planning
- Go viral [see the Social Media section of this campaign resource]
- Host an information session for your congregation or ministry team. In your initial meeting, take time to cast vision, share goals, and begin congregational prayer movement using the Campaign Prayer Guide
- Develop a marketing plan for church-wide and community outreach, noting specific engagement dates beginning four weeks from the start of your campaign
- Four Weeks in Advance—Engage church-wide communication using promotional materials and additional resources
- Three Weeks in Advance—Engage in community event and sermon series marketing using your campaign kit
- Finalize all event and sermon series planning

DURING THE CAMPAIGN

- Continue praying for the campaign, its leaders, and those individuals who are attending different activities
- Keep morale high by recasting the vision and offering regular progress reports
- Continue to finalize details and promote upcoming events
- Update social media outlets regularly
- Implement your campaign sermon series, small group options, and ministry mobilization ideas
- Undergird and encourage any team members who may struggle with their responsibilities
- Keep following your marketing plan and meet all dates and deadlines for church-wide and community communication about events, sermon series, and campaign opportunities
- Take notes to evaluate your Faith-Based Film Campaign and use for future church-wide efforts

AFTER THE CAMPAIGN

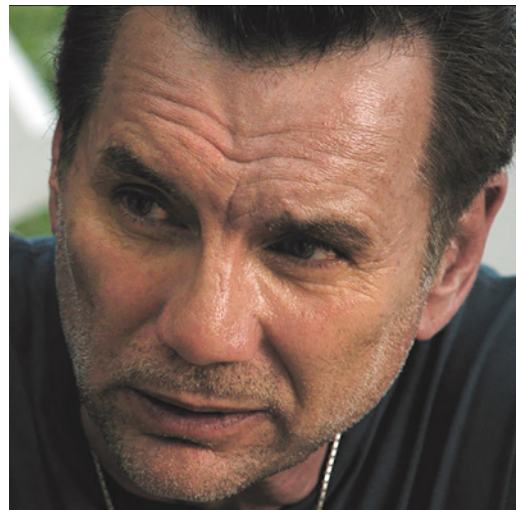
- Meet with your core leadership team to finalize campaign efforts. Use the opportunity to recognize their hard work and to thank everyone for their tremendous service
- Follow up with any decisions made
- Using the data collected in your spiritual gifts inventories and ministry mobilization efforts, train and develop new teams of leaders, volunteers, and lay ministers in your church
- Involve the team in evaluating the campaign
- Send thank-you letters to your pastor, theater managers, and campaign team members
- Meet with your pastor and senior leadership to plan for the future

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.
— Hebrews 10:23



CAMPAIGN STRATEGY TIMELINE

LET THERE BE LIGHT will play in theaters nationwide for a certain amount of time. How long the movie remains in theaters does not limit its overall effectiveness, but it is the main driving factor for how many will know about this movie and its powerful message. Whether your **LET THERE BE LIGHT** campaign runs congruently with the film's theatrical release or during a subsequent ministry emphasis, use the following event ideas to conduct your campaign. The best events have a clearly defined purpose in order to execute a successful strategy. A clearly stated sample purpose is attached to each event idea. Just because you determine to utilize the event route specifics doesn't mean you must engage the sample suggested purpose. However, having a clearly defined purpose of your own is essential to creating and implementing a successful faith-based film event strategy.



MOVIE EVENT

Purpose: To provide an inspiring community outreach event for our church where hope and faith are experienced and people learn that our church, like Christ, desires to give something to them rather than take something away.

For a theatrical release movie event, consider renting a theater for one or more showings and inviting your congregation or ministry participants to attend. Encourage guests to invite friends, neighbors, and coworkers. In the weeks prior to your event, coach them on ways to leverage conversations about faith in order to engage people right where they are spiritually and to set the tone for the film's message. On the day of your event, make sure you have a window of time between subsequent showings to pray, share the gospel message that Jesus Christ came to save, and invite patrons to additional services and events with your church to connect in an ongoing way with their faith. One of the great advantages of buying out a showing is you are able to speak before and after the movie begins. Use this time before the movie begins to welcome everyone and let them know to stay in their seats after the movie ends for a brief message.

If it's within your church budget and the theater is agreeable, purchase an entire showing and make the movie available for free to your church and guests. This makes the event a great outreach opportunity. Show the community that your church is about giving and not taking. Break down the wall people might have with the idea of church by illustrating God's love in a practical, service oriented way.

Many theaters will negotiate a discount for reserving an entire showing if you choose a non-peak time or smaller-seated theater. They might allow you to purchase it at a significant discount based on projected ticket sales for a particular theater's seating capacity. Check with local and district managers for details and reservations.

Because **LET THERE BE LIGHT** is a family friendly film with an easily understood plot line, even for children, make your movie experience an exciting event with refreshments, giveaways, and additional promotional resources highlighting kids and family ministry opportunities at your church.

A PLACE OF HOPE

Purpose: To provide a community outreach event for our church with an intentional plan to put their “faith” into action by helping others see and experience the hope that is found in Christ.

An underlying theme throughout the film is filling the darkness with light and hope. Think of the people who are most in need of hope, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, rescue missions, etc. Create Hope Teams to visit these locations and share your story of finding hope and faith. For those in the hospital or a nursing home, bring fresh flowers and offer to listen. You could also read a devotional or passage of scripture and pray for the residents. Your Hope Team can serve a meal or prepare personal hygiene kits for those who are without a home at the rescue mission in your town. Be creative and you will be amazed at how you can foster a Place of Hope for people wherever they are. Whatever you do, however, don't miss the chance to engage with one of the movie's most important themes, sharing hope. It's an illustration of our ultimate belief in Jesus.

And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you. — Psalms 39:7



A NIGHT OF THANKSGIVING

Purpose: To provide our church with the opportunity to share stories of how God has filled our lives with hope and give thanks, as a community, for his faithfulness.

With **LET THERE BE LIGHT** opening a month before Thanksgiving, the season provides a strategic time to engage with the movie's themes of hope and gratitude. In the movie, Sol and Katy brought the world together to shine a light up to the sky. You don't have to get the entire world involved to make an impact. There is power in bringing your church together. Plan an evening where the congregation can gather to spend time in worship, allowing people to share those moments in their life where things seemed dark but God was faithful and brought hope to the situation. One of the best things we can do to connect with hope is to remember all we have to be thankful for, and share it. After each person shares, ask them to light a candle that you provide. At the conclusion of the evening, the sanctuary will be filled with light from individual candles, representing how God's presence is bigger and more profound than people often realize. Invite nearby churches to join you on this evening to build unity in the community.



MEN'S MOVIE NIGHT

Purpose: To give the men of our church an event that will help them see they can be real with God and with each other and the church is a safe place where they can bring their struggles and find hope.

Because men are so visual by design, movies are the perfect platform for bringing complex issues to the surface and providing a launching point for deeper conversations. Dr. Sol Harkens is a guy that looks like he has it all together on the outside, but inside he's falling apart. The church is full of men who are in the same place. It can be difficult to break through the facade that many men have spent years creating and get to what's really going on in their lives. This movie can be a catalyst to men opening up, and it gives them permission to not have a perfect life. The message will hit home with men, they will see themselves in this story, and the movie impact can live long after the theater. Take advantage of this by kicking off a Fall Men's focus with **LET THERE BE LIGHT**. Include a retreat and men's bible study. Imagine what a church full of men who are living authentic lives filled with purpose, hope, and faith would look like.

"The most significant fact about any man is not what he, at any given time, may say or do but what he, in his deep heart, conceives God to be like." — AW Tozer





SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

FACEBOOK

Start by going to and “Liking” the LET THERE BE LIGHT page. You can find it at the following URL: <https://www.facebook.com/LTBLfilm> from that page, you can view the [*movie trailer*](#), stay up-to-date on movie release information, and interact with the cast and writers.

Your Facebook church page or campaign page will allow you to designate roles within the page. Admins have the most power over content creation and also governance over users. For ease of use, designate several admins and editors over your page in order to delegate and use a wide variety of people in campaign leadership roles. Images and videos tend to get the most engagement, so be sure to post images with quotes that relate to the theme of your campaign (ex. Hope, faith, belief, etc.).

Next, create and post specific events for any of your calendared campaign items. It allows everyone you invite to RSVP and easily share the event and invite others. The more buzz you can create, the more people have the opportunity to attend.

Finally, use your own status or the wall of your church/ministry page to share information about film. Drum up as much awareness and support as you can for the movie. The more success each faith-based film attains, the greater the chance we have of seeing more movies like **LET THERE BE LIGHT** on big screens worldwide. Encourage other social media savvy participants or even those who are brand new to the world of Facebook to make your church-wide campaign events their daily statuses and to continue to share about the film during your campaign.

*Facebook Live video streaming usage is paired with Periscope and covered in the joint video section of this guide.

TWITTER

From your own account or the church feed, go online to the official movie Twitter page and “follow” the film. You can find the movie at the following URL. <https://twitter.com/LTBLfilm> Next, begin using your Twitter page[s] to create buzz around your Facebook events and announcements. Share them via strategically placed tweets. Use Twitter to inspire people and then invite them to join you.

Consider taking the time on the outset of your campaign to create a document full of possible tweets related to your campaign. The power of what can be communicated in the 140-character max to circulate the simple reasons for the campaign is endless. As a follower of Jesus, we have just one mission and that is to make disciples. The world we live in today communicates in byte-sized bits. If you were a missionary to Mexico, you would speak the official language—Spanish. To effectively engage culture where you are, you have to speak “tweet.” It’s not reducing the quality of the content, just the quantity of characters you use to transmit it. It will force you to evaluate your vision and streamline your message.

Consider the implications of live-tweeting your campaign movie event. This social media enhancement will only work under a few conditions. First, the movie viewing must be a church exclusive. That doesn’t mean you can’t have as many first time guests as you can gather. It just means that normal box office ticket holders have the right to see the film in a room without smart phones in use. If it is your event and you set up the fun with everyone present, tweet away and encourage them to do the same.

Plan and promote your “Live Tweet” movie event. To do your “Live Tweet” movie event, strategically place a few tweeters in the room that saw a previous showing. Seat your live tweeting team in a far corner of the theater to avoid interrupting other patrons. Tweet quotes, info on scenes, and ideas you have while watching the film. Tweet questions and even strategic passages of scripture that are uniquely connected to the film. Be careful to not create too many detailed spoilers and ruin the movie going experience for others who have yet to see the film. The purpose isn’t to communicate the plot but to emphasize the way the movie is impacting people’s lives. If anything, your tweets should serve as marketing teasers to entice others to see the film.

Encourage all those present to find ways to quietly converse during the film via Twitter sharing their thoughts and responses to the film. Use a hashtag like **#yourchurchLTBL** or **#youreventname** or simply **#LTBLmovie** to create Tweet categories and build even more Twitter chatter about your church and the campaign.

VIDEO SHARING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Each of the platforms in this category allows you to post, share, and utilize video content to enhance the social media outreach and influence of your film campaign. Regardless of which option(s) you employ, videos can widen your effectiveness. The goal should not be to go viral but to cast vision, create momentum, and engage your audience. Consider the impact of creating the video idea provided below and posting on your chosen social media content sharing applications. It works well within the framework of both Facebook and Twitter and easily integrates into your overall web presence.

Here's just one idea of how you can utilize video for your campaign. Invite members of your congregation, both young and old, to come in for a quick video shoot. Ask each one to share what they think of when they hear the word "light". People might share heartwarming thoughts or even humorous ones. The video stories should be short and simple and compiled into a single piece to post on your social media video sharing platform and linked to other pages promoting your campaign. Conclude your montage with each person saying all or part of this line [or something similar]:

"Jesus is the light of the world and the hope of the nations. LET THERE BE LIGHT"

Your video collaboration will have many unique thoughts and many voices sharing that concluding declaration, all culminating in a powerful piece to enhance your campaign.

In addition to that creative idea, or others that you develop, your video platforms can be used to create and share invitations to events, information about your campaign, devotional content throughout, and even post shareable summaries of your campaign events once they are complete. Don't neglect the power of the after effect. Posting, liking, sharing, and reposting event videos once they have occurred creates as much buzz for your church and future community engagements as anything else. If people see a captivating video and regret not participating, that will certainly drum up more attention for your future efforts.

INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a photo-sharing application that integrates easily into Facebook and Twitter. It's also available as an add-on for Hootsuite.

On your own Instagram page, plan to take photos of people who attend your campaign events. Using your campaign #hashtag, you can easily highlight the event. Encourage church members to share event photos with one another and tag each other's Facebook profiles in their pictures. Ask them to make it their profile picture for the duration of the campaign. Ask them to be willing and prepared to share with anyone who asks or comments the purpose of the pictures and the purpose of the church events. The greater the energy surrounding participation, the greater the event's success.

Another "instagrammable" idea for the campaign is the video feature. Have participants post a video on their own of something that gives them hope, similar to the plan listed in the aforementioned creative content. Using the same church-wide #hashtag allows you to assemble each video or picture post in the same page and even stream them from your church website.



LET THERE BE LIGHT DISCIPLESHIP OPTIONS

LET THERE BE LIGHT can be a tremendous “on ramp” into disciple making. After the movie, or even before, viewers will be ready to engage in discussion and small groups around the topics of hope, faith, forgiveness, grief, doubt, and more. The movie has many perspectives around these themes and will lend itself well to using some of these resources and others.

You'll Get Through This – Max Lucado (Hope)

Faith, Hope, and Luck – Andy Stanley (Faith)

A Way Of Letting Go – Wilma Derksen (Grief)

Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith – Andy Stanley (Faith)

No More Faking Fine – Esther Fleece (Authenticity)

Any studies you lean into during your campaign around this movie should take advantage of the momentum your campaign achieved and include a nod to the idea of starting fresh, even in significant areas of life. Another key component easily talked about after seeing the film is the role of faith put into action. The studies suggested above will be a connection to the film participants to help them continue long into their study time. Visit your local Christian bookstore for more options around these topics.

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11



LET THERE BE LIGHT CAMPAIGN TEAM PRAYER GUIDE

Oswald Chambers offered in his iconic work, *My Utmost for His Highest*, “Prayer does not equip us for greater works—prayer is the greater work.” That is certainly true of your campaign effort. Use the following Prayer Guide as a resource throughout your campaign season for your leadership team. Use the prayer prompts and scripture verses as ways to pray for God’s power and the movement of the Holy Spirit in your community and your church.

There is no more powerful medium for prayer than the Word of God. This prayer guide challenges you to pray through scripture and faithfully expect the promises of God to be fulfilled. Praying scripture aligns your heart with God’s heart because you are filling your mind with the His Word.

These passages have been selected because of their connection to the theme of the film and the opportunity they present to pray for God to move in the hearts of your people. Campaign prayer team leader: Feel free to add your own passages based on specific requests for your congregation and your community. As God directs your campaign vision, so goes the movement of the campaign prayer team.

PRAY FOR SALVATION

Use the following verses as you pray for salvation to spring up in the hearts of lost people through your campaign effort. Because of the hopelessness experienced by so many at people dealing with loss or grieving in other ways, helping people connect to Christ by first connecting to the characters in the film may be just the tool God chooses to use to expose their hearts to his overwhelming grace.

John 1:12 But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name.

Romans 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

John 14:6 No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 1:13 When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

PRAY FOR GOD'S FAVOR

As you pray through this section of verses, you are boldly asking God's favor on your campaign efforts. By bathing your work in prayer, you are indicating something very significant to God, your dependence on him. Remember, Jesus explained that we can do nothing apart from him [John 15]. We need the undeniable presence and power of God in order to live and breathe and hope, and especially accomplish works in his name.

***2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.*

***Hebrews 4:16** Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.*

***Matthew 7:11** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

***Psalms 90:17** Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!*

***Psalms 67:1** May God be gracious to us and bless us; look on us with favor, so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.*

***John 1:16-17** Indeed, we have all received grace after grace from His fullness, for the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*



PRAY FOR RENEWED COMMITMENT TO CHRIST AMONG PARTICIPANTS

Psalm 143:10 *Teach me to do your will, for You are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me on level ground.*

Proverbs 16:3 *Commit your activities to the Lord, and your plans will be achieved.*

1 King 8:61 *“Let your heart be completely devoted to the Lord our God to walk in His statutes and to keep His commands, as it is today.”*

Hebrews 12:1 *Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us.*

2 Chronicles 15:12 *Then they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their ancestors with all their mind and all their heart.*

Matthew 22:37 *He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*

Psalm 25:4 *Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.*

Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

Jeremiah 29:12-14a *“You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you”—this is the Lord’s declaration.*

PRAY FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Ultimately, there is a hope that your church will be always growing. First by new conversion growth as unbelievers repent and turn to Christ for salvation. Beyond that, there are no stagnant waters in the pool of Christianity. You must also pray that people connected to Christ continue to grow into mature believers and represent His church well.

***Ephesians 4:11-13** And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.*

***1 Corinthians 3:6-7** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

***2 Peter 3:18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

***2 Peter 1:5-8** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***Acts 2:41-47** So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added to them. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.*

***Philippians 1:6** I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

***Romans 8:29** For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.*

PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HOPE

Because such a key component of the film is a spiritual journey that begins with grief, a considerable prayer to pray during your campaign is for hurting people to see and experience the hope found in Christ, so that hope will grow their faith.

***Isaiah 60:20** Your sun will never set; your moon will not go down. For the Lord will be your everlasting light. Your days of mourning will come to an end.*

***John 14:27** I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.*

***Romans 15:13** I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

***Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

***Revelation 21:4** And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*

***Matthew 11:28** Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

*"The word hope I take for faith; and indeed hope is nothing else but the constancy of faith."
— John Calvin*

LET THERE BE LIGHT SERMONS

LET THERE BE LIGHT Sermon 1: The Significance of Our Faith

by J.D. Davis

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:3-12

Sermon Focus: Listeners will be challenged to place their faith in Jesus. The insecurities of other types of faith will be contrasted by the consistency a faith in Jesus provides.

Introduction

In LET THERE BE LIGHT, Sol Harkens has tragically lost his son to cancer and, lacking any faith, lashed out at his wife, whose faith couldn't save their son from his untimely death. Dealing with his grief alone, instead of with the support of any faith in God, Sol's life spirals down into sin and hopelessness. The film shows what happens when the seas of life become stormy, and people unequally yoked (in their faith,) each turn in different directions.

There is a large audience of believers who are married to or related to unbelievers. This film is the outreach to bring non-believing friends or relatives to. That should be a message in these materials, to use this film as a way to grow the church body, in general, but specifically to minister to those loved-ones who are lost.

What have you put your faith in? How important is it to have faith? Where do we find a faith strong enough to make it through our own storms of life? Peter knows how important faith is and he gives us a great picture of faith, a faith that we can anchor deep with, and a faith which will hold us during the storms.

When Peter wrote his letter, things were changing. In the beginning of the first century church, the government remained unconcerned about this new religious sect. As the church grew, the constrictions of the government increased. Peter is writing to a people who are finding it increasingly difficult to live their faith.

Even today it is not easy being a Christian, but we must find a way to live our faith without compromise.

Peter helps us gain some insight into how to live an authentic Christ centered faith in the midst of some difficult times.

I. Timeless faith - 1 Peter 1:4-5

The question is not if we have faith, every one has faith. The atheist has faith that his rational reasoning has removed the possibility of God. He has faith in his intellectual ability. Others have faith in their abilities, skills, connections, friends, family and themselves. Everyone has faith. The question will become whether or not the anchor of faith will hold.

Sooner or later the storms of life will begin to blow and the question will become whether or not the anchor faith will hold.

Peter gives us three reasons that it is important to anchor our faith in Christ.

A. Faith in Christ is imperishable

How can that be? Well look where faith in Christ is kept, in Heaven. Jesus says that we are to put up treasures in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy or the thief steal. My wife has bought me several garment bags for my suits. She puts cedar in them. She does this because she knows that the suits are the most valuable clothes I have, and that they are mostly wool. Moths could destroy the suits in a short time, but she tries to make them imperishable. Not too long ago I left one of my sweaters out of its bag. I did not think it would hurt to leave it out. I found it about four weeks ago with little holes all over it. The moths had destroyed it.

If our faith is set upon the things of this world, then our faith will perish. Countless kingdoms have come and fallen, economies have been built and destroyed, and nations have been established and vanished. All that is left of some of those kingdoms are the ruins you can see in a museum. Only the kingdom of God has remained constant in the past two thousand years. Our faith is to be set in heaven, and not on the things of this world. That is the only way that we know our faith is imperishable.

B. Our faith will be uncorrupted

You have no doubt heard the phrase, absolute power corrupts absolutely. It is a statement which indicates our sinful nature. History is full of leaders who started off with the best intentions but pride, ego, or other flaws got in the way. If we place our faith in a leader, it is but a matter of time before the corruptible nature of the individual is revealed.

But Christ has no sin, and our faith is in the power of God. God has absolute power, but it is uncorrupted. There is no pride or ego in the power of Christ. In the scope of eternity, Jesus is the only person who has absolute power, but not only that, He is also the only person for whom absolute power has not corrupted, even a little bit. Our faith can only be incorruptible, when it is placed in Christ.

C. Our faith in Christ is unfading

I know of lots of people who are fad people. They jump on the latest trend or idea, and about six months or a year down the road, they jump on something new. Do you need a great example? Pull out your year books. Look at the hair styles, the clothes you wore, and the tone of the culture. How much have things changed in the last 20 or 30 years?

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And the faith we have now will see us through the Last Days.

II. Tested faith - 1 Peter 1:6-8

Our faith must be anchored in the timeless nature of Christ, but I can hear the question. How do you know that a faith in Christ will hold up during the storms of life? Why should I trust Christ? Because, this is no ordinary faith, it is a tested faith. Countless people have placed their faith in Christ and found the anchor holds. Peter survived some incredible storms of life, and he says here is what I found the faith of Christ to be when it is put to the test.

Peter found a tested faith is valuable, revealing, and centered on love.

A. It is valuable (1:7)

Peter here plays upon a great image, the goldsmith. A goldsmith would melt the metal down until it became a liquid. All the impurities would come to the surface and the goldsmith would scrape them off and allow the metal to cool. He would then come back and repeat the process over and over. His goal was pure gold. How did he know when he had pure gold? When no impurities came to the surface or when he could see his reflection in the melted gold.

Peter says that our faith is like gold, as it is tested, it will begin to bring the impurities to the surface. When the impurities are removed our faith becomes more valuable. (1:7) Gold is the standard by which we define value. We say things like, “worth it’s weight in gold”, “the golden boy”, and “the golden age”. Our jewelry is made of gold and we trade with it. In Peter’s world and in ours, gold was considered one of the most valuable things a person could have.

While gold is valuable, it is secondary to our faith. Gold can perish, but our faith will endure. A faith in Jesus Christ will carry us through this life and even into the world to come. A faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of God’s only Son is far more valuable than gold. Our faith is in something eternal, not in something that can be destroyed.

B. It is revealing (1:7)

The goldsmith knew that he has pure gold when he can see his reflection in the metal. Our faith should reflect Jesus and reveal Him to a world. As we grow in Christ, we learn more about Him and His love. It is only through a life given to Christ, will we begin to see Him as He really is.

When I got married, I had spent more than two years dating my wife. However, dating, is not being married. There is a deeper stage of learning about each other in marriage. We begin to see each other in a new light. As our faith grows, more about the deeper nature of Christ is revealed to us. The end result of a Christ centered faith is that our lives are shaped and molded by Him.

Our faith begins to reflect that deeper knowledge of Jesus, our lives will begin to change. When you and I live differently, because our faith is growing, those around us will see the difference. Quite literally, your life begins to reflect the image of Christ. Just as the goldsmith knew he had pure gold, when he looked into the metal and could see his reflection, Jesus desires His reflection in our lives. That can only happen in a refined faith that has been tested.

C. It is centered on our love for Christ (1:8)

Peter talks about how we love Christ even though we have not seen Him. In Hebrews we have the definition of faith, “Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1). The essence of faith is that it does not require our sight or proof. But notice that faith is “reality”. Just because something is not seen does not negate its existence. If it did all of us would be brainless, for I doubt that you have seen your own brain. But we know we have a brain. Peter says that real faith is loving a Christ, you have never seen, but still know exists.

III. True faith - 1:10-12

In our postmodern world, we often hear the statement that what works for you may not work for me. So Peter had a faith in Christ that was timeless. His faith was valuable, revealing, and full of love. But how does that mean, what worked for Peter will work for me? Almost as if Peter anticipated your question, he writes about the faith of others.

The prophets of the Old Testament found their faith in God to hold. (1:10) God spoke to the prophets and told them that the Messiah was coming. He gave them a hope that the One who could deliver them was on the way. The message of the prophets can be summarized as, “Hang on. God is working and the Messiah is coming. Get ready, your deliverer is coming.” Doesn’t that sound like a message for people at the end of their rope, for people who don’t know where to turn? It is a message of hope and encouragement. It is a promise. How many people do you know that need to be encouraged not to give up. How many people in this room need to be told that there is help on it’s way. Maybe you need to hear that God’s promises are for you. That is the message of the Old Testament prophets.

Peter points out that the true faith is not only tied to the prophets, but also the fulfillment of those prophecies. There is a faith in the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. (1:11)

I have recently been taking some classes on preaching. A couple of weeks ago, in one of the lectures, a teacher said an astounding thing. He said that Christianity is the only religion which cannot reinvent itself. All other religions are based upon a philosophical basis. Other religions have been created out of a human mind. The teacher went on to state that if all religions were wiped from the face of the earth, someone could come along, have the same thoughts and ideas, and recreate any of the religions.

But not so with Christianity. Our faith is built upon the prophecies of the Old Testament, prophecies which said a Messiah is coming. Our faith is built upon Jesus. We believe that he is the Messiah, the embodiment of the Old Testament prophecies. We believe that He died on a cross for our sins and that he rose again. We believe that he is coming back.

If all of Christianity were to be destroyed, how could we recreate it in our minds? We could not. Our faith is not built upon philosophy, intellect, or creative speculations. Our faith is built upon the historical fact that Jesus, God's only Son, died on a Roman cross, in Jerusalem, on a hill called Golgatha, in 30 AD. Our faith cannot be recreated, but thank God it is a faith which has stood the test of time, proven itself faithful when tested, and is the only true faith which holds in the storms of life.

Peter then talks of how the faith of the Old Testament and the Gospels is for these present days. (1:12)

Peter literally says, "Angels desire to look into these things." Can you imagine what that must be like? Angels are leaning over the rim of heaven and looking down. They have seen what God did with the prophets. They have seen how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies with His birth, life, death and resurrection. The angels have seen Lucifer kicked out of heaven, the resurrection of Christ, the dead raised, the Red Sea parted, and demons exorcised. But what they desire to see, is what God is going to do now. The angels are watching you and me, and they want to see what the next chapter will be like. How will our faith and God's great actions meet? As Mordecai said to Esther, who knows but that you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this? Our time to live our faith is now.

Conclusion

All of us have faith, but will your anchor of faith hold in the storms of life? Is your anchor of faith a true anchor? Is your faith built upon the truth of scripture. Is your faith tested? Do you know how valuable, revealing and full of love, a faith in Christ is? Is your faith timeless, or will the newest fad or the latest philosophy cause you to tie to a new anchor? Only a faith in Christ is true, tested, and timeless.

It is not a question of if you have a faith. It is not a question of if the storms of life will come. It is the question, will your anchor of faith, hold through the storms? The time to anchor your hope and faith to Christ is now, before the storms show up.

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LET THERE BE LIGHT Sermon 2: The Reason for Our Hope

by Phil B. Davis

Key Scriptures: John 16:33 and 1 Peter 3:15

Sermon Focus: Jesus told us in this life we will experience difficulties but to have hope because he has overcome the world. We will look at the areas in our life where Christ's promises give us reason to have hope, in spite of our circumstances.

It can be easy to lose hope when we experience difficult times in life. And hope is perhaps the most precious thing we could lose, because it is the foundation for faith (Col. 1:5, 23). Becoming a follower of Christ doesn't exempt us from trials. Yet as believers, we have a very real reason to hope, even though we face heartache and loss.

In the movie, LET THERE BE LIGHT, Sol Harkens tragically loses his son to cancer. He also loses hope and without hope, he is unable to deal with his grief and anger at God. Even though on the outside he appears to be a huge success, on the inside he is spiraling out of control. His marriage ends and his relationship with his remaining two sons becomes strained. Contrast that with his ex-wife, Katy, whose faith, rooted in hope, has held her steady through the loss of her son and marriage. How is it that Katy was able to maintain hope when Sol gave up? How are you able to maintain hope when you feel overwhelmed by life?

Jesus makes it clear in John 16:33 that Christians don't get a pass on pain and heartache. But, thankfully, he doesn't stop there. He tells us to "take heart"! In other words, have hope. Why? Because his truth, his power, and his promises transcend this life. When you put your trust and faith in Christ, you can know that whatever difficulties you're going through, hope remains. Those difficulties are not the end of you, because they do not have the final say about you.

If we want to live our lives with the kind of hope Katy displays in the movie, it helps to be mindful of the what gives rise to that kind of hope. Let's take a look at the promises God made to give us hope in the midst of darkness, in the face of suffering, and that this world is not the end.

I. Hope... in the midst of darkness

- Isaiah 9:1-3
- Lamentations 3:22-24
- Isaiah 60:20

II. Hope ... in the face of suffering

- Jeremiah 31:12-14
- 2 Corinthians 1:6-8
- Romans 8:22-24

III. Hope... that this world is not the end

- 1 Thessalonians 4:12-14



LET THERE BE LIGHT DISCUSSION GUIDES

LET THERE BE LIGHT Discussion Guide: Session 1

HOPE: Hope is the desire for a particular thing to happen. As believers, we place our hope in Jesus, for non-believers they can only hope in things they can control or in the people around them, they do not have hope in an all-powerful, all-knowing King of the Universe. In LET THERE BE LIGHT Dr. Sol Harkens spends his life sharing the message of Atheism. On the outside he is a strong, charismatic, self-absorbed character, behind the scenes he is lonely, troubled, and confused. He lives his life denying hope. Dr. Harkens needed hope, something to hold on to, and while it was right in front of him, he could not see it.

READ: Isaiah 41:1-14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does this relate to you? Are you blinded and unable to see Hope?
2. Why do we often let things get worse in our life before turning to God?
3. What can we do to in our own lives to get rid of the things in our way?
4. What do you place your hope in?
5. What do you need hope for in your life now?

Here is an acrostic for HOPE that will help you place your focus on Jesus, the only true Hope.

Hold On – Isaiah 41:10

Overcome – Psalm 21:1; Isaiah 41:13

Pray – Jeremiah 29:12

Eyes on Jesus – Hebrews 12:2

LET THERE BE LIGHT Discussion Guide: Session 2

BELIEVE: Our beliefs are what really define us; our views on cultural issues, where we stand, and what influences our decisions. Sometimes there are issues we have not formed a belief around; maybe we just don't know how we feel about things. When we do not fully believe something, our opinions can be swayed and changed. When it comes to our faith in God, we must not be standing in the middle, we need to know where we stand and what we believe. Our Faith is the most important thing in our life. It should be what forms our worldview and even our calling in life should depend on what we believe God is calling us to do. Without an understanding of what we believe, our world is built on quick sand.

READ: Jude 1:3; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Psalm 94:16; Titus 1:9; 2 Timothy 4:2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does it matter what you believe?
2. Do you feel like you have a good grasp on your faith?
3. If pressed, could you give a good defense for what you believe?
4. What are some things you believe in, other than your faith? Give a defense for something. (EXAMPLE: I believe the Chicago Cubs are the best baseball team.)
5. What do you need to get a better understanding of your faith?

The Case For Christ is a great book to begin understanding the things about the Christian Faith that are indisputable outside of God's word. Many will not accept your defense of your faith using the Bible. It is good to not only know what the Bible says, but what other's have said and discovered about the truth of the scripture citing other sources.

LET THERE BE LIGHT Discussion Guide: Session 3

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: In LET THERE BE LIGHT, after Dr. Harkens turns to faith in Jesus and re-connects with his family, they set out to make a difference, to share their faith with as many as they can across the world. Once you have been living in the darkness, the light is overpowering, it consumes you, and you must share it. Has the gospel overpowered you? Are you so overwhelmed with the power of the gospel that you must share it? How sad it is that we who know the truth would hold it for ourselves. One of the best ways to show the real gospel is to serve others, to make an impact with acts of service. How can you make a difference in your community, city, and with those around you that need to not only hear the truth, but see it?

READ: Matthew 4:16, Psalm 109:105; Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 12:33-34; Romans 12:1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How has the Gospel changed your life?
2. Have you thought about how your life can make a difference, because of the Gospel? How?
3. How are you making a difference?
4. What does it mean to be a “living sacrifice”? (Romans 12:1)
5. How can you be a brighter light where you are?

Ways you can make a difference:

Do something for your neighbor.

Do something that would blow a family members mind, serve without being asked.

Do something that helps those in need – raise funds for hurricane victims by selling something you don't use anymore.

How else can you make a difference?