

Take-Home · Session 4

The Unfruitful Works of Darkness

What We Found

Paul calls the works of darkness unfruitful: they do not lead toward holiness or life, and nothing about them feeds anyone. He is not condemning good works; God prepared good works for us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10), and the Spirit grows exactly that kind of lasting good.

Ephesians 5:8 says we were darkness and are light in the Lord: transformation, not relocation. "Walk as children of light" means live out what baptism made you.

John 3:19-21: darkness is a loved preference defended by hiding, not a lack of information. The way out is doing what is true and coming to the light.

Exposure is love's work when it aims at healing: "Awake, O sleeper... and Christ shall give you light" (Ephesians 5:14).

Voices of the Church

St. Justin Martyr · *First Apology 61, summary*

Within a century of the apostles, the Church's own name for baptism was illumination: those who receive it are enlightened in their understanding.

St. Ambrose · *On the Mysteries 2.7, summary*

Those preparing for baptism turned from west to east, renouncing darkness to face the rising sun. At the Easter Vigil, the faithful's candles are still lit from the one flame of Christ.

St. John Henry Newman · *"Lead, Kindly Light," summary*

Sick at sea, Newman asked the kindly Light for one step at a time. Walking as children of light often means enough light for the next step, not the whole road.

Live It This Week

This week's one thing. Privately examine your conscience and bring your sins honestly to God; seek sacramental Confession when needed. If something difficult or unsafe needs help, speak with a trusted adult. You do not need to share private information with the group.

- Optional: Read John 3:16-21 each evening and review the day for light and hiding.
- Optional: Put the next Easter Vigil on your calendar.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 5:8 · For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.

Before Next Session

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 13. Next session the orchard opens: love, joy, and peace.

Scripture this session: Ephesians 5:3-14; John 3:19-21; Genesis 1:3-4 · Catechism: 1216, 1695, 2466