

# **Through the Storm (Raised to Life) Clarity on the First Light- Session #4 Small Group Notes**

## **Introduction:**

Question: What is something that you have had a struggle seeing that light helped you to see? Are there people that have acted as light for you? Are there situations that God has used to reveal His plan in your life?

Read 1 John 5:11-13 to see how the Lord revealed Himself as the First Light.

## **Discuss: Clarity on the First Light: The ultimate goal of any storm is salvation!**

### 1. Salvation isn't automatic

- Read Romans 3:23

Explain: This verse further reveals how "no one is righteous, no not one." Since we have all sinned, we have all missed the mark in our lives to save ourselves.

Ask: What are ways that we have been blinded to think that salvation is automatic? How can we be confused to put our faith in tradition or works for our salvation?

### 2. Salvation isn't merely intellectual

- Read James 2:19

Explain: James' letter shows it is not enough for us to just know the right things in order to be saved. He compares someone that merely wants to just know the right things to even the demons, because they know who Jesus is. If salvation was based upon our knowledge then Jesus died in vain, because then there was no reason for him to come and die since it was about knowledge and not about grace through faith.

Ask: Why is it important to know about Jesus but it's not the only thing that we need for salvation?

### 3. Salvation isn't based on any effort

- Read Proverbs 14:12
- Read Ephesians 2:8-9
- Salvation has always been by grace through faith
- Salvation is foundationally about trusting versus trying

Explain: The writing is clear that salvation is through grace and not of our works. Often we are trying to make up our failures by our efforts. We want to be just good people. While salvation transforms our hearts and lives, we are not good in order to be saved but because we are saved!

Ask: What are ways that you can show that you are trusting in Christ versus trying in Christ?

### 4. Salvation always brings change!

- Read Romans 6:4
- Salvation always changes your view of sin, worship, The Word, and the world

Explain: The verse shows that a transformation happens in our lives when we identify with Christ. A part in which we do that is with baptism. It's important to remember though that baptism is a response to a change that has happened in our lives not the way in which we are transformed.

Ask: What has been something different in your life from following Jesus? What is the evidence of these changes in your life?

### 5. Salvation is personal but was never meant to be private

- Read Acts 2:41
- Why: To follow the example of Jesus, Mark 1:9
- When: As soon as you have believed
- Remember the promise: Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!

Ask: What is your salvation story?