

WEEK 2: Midweek Devotional: No Sin Too Dark for the Light

Based on the sermon from Sunday and scriptures: 1 John 1:5–2:2 and Psalm 34:1–5

Opening Prayer

Loving God,
Be with us now as we open Your Word together.
Speak to our hearts through Scripture, reflection, and silence.
Help us to be honest before You, and remind us that it is Your truth that sets us free.
In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Take time to slowly and prayerfully re-read Sunday's passages: **1 John 1:5–2:2 & Psalm 34:1–5**

Reflection Thought: Light That Heals, Not Shames

In the sermon, we saw how instinctive it is—even for a 9-month-old baby—to hide when we know we've done something wrong. That instinct never fully leaves us. When we sin, we want to cover it up, justify it, ignore it, or pretend it never happened. But Scripture reminds us: denial doesn't lead to freedom. Confession does. 1 John pulls no punches. Sin is real, and it matters—not because God wants us to feel ashamed, but because sin separates us from the life and fellowship we were made for.

We live in a world that often denies the very idea of sin. But deep down, we all know: Something is broken. In the world. In our relationships. In our own hearts.

No amount of self-improvement or “trying harder” can fix what only Jesus can heal. And the good news is: **He already has.**

“The blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin.”
(1 John 1:7)

Jesus doesn't wait for us to get it all together.
He calls us into the light—not to shame us, but to heal us.

Reflection Questions

Take a moment to reflect on these questions, either personally or as a group:

1. **Where do you see the instinct to “hide” showing up in your life?** What are you tempted to cover up or deny?
2. **How do you usually respond to the idea of sin?** Do you feel shame, defensiveness, indifference—or something else?
3. **What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Advocate?** (1 John 2:1)
4. **How might confession actually bring more freedom, not less?**
5. **What area of your life do you sense God inviting into the light today?**

A Time of Confession (Silent or Spoken)

Spend a few minutes in quiet reflection.

This is not about guilt. This is about grace.

Take time to quietly name the things you need to bring into God's light. You might pray:

"Lord, I confess..."

"Jesus, shine Your light here..."

If in a group, you may choose to pray silently or invite voluntary prayers of confession. After a pause, read aloud:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Let those words settle in your heart. **You are forgiven.** You are free.

Fellowship & Honesty

John reminds us that confession isn't just vertical (between us and God)—it's also horizontal (between us and others).

"If we walk in the light... we have fellowship with one another."

(1 John 1:7)

Confession creates community.

Honesty deepens fellowship.

Where honesty is met with grace, community grows strong. Ask yourself or the group:

- *What would it look like to be part of a community where people don't pretend, but walk in the light together?*
- *How can we help build that kind of church?*

Closing Prayer - Father of Light,

You see us clearly, and yet You invite us to step into Your light—not to shame us, but to heal us.

Thank You for the blood of Jesus that purifies us from all sin.

Thank You that we don't have to hide anymore.

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we've covered up what You've called us to confess.

Forgive us for pretending when You've invited us to be honest.

Help us walk in the light—not perfectly, but sincerely.

Make our church a place of joyful fellowship, where honesty is met with grace, and grace leads us to transformation.

And may we take Your light into the dark places—carrying hope, healing, and truth to a world that desperately needs You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Going Deeper (Optional Prompt)

“Christian fellowship is triangular: my life in fellowship with Christ, your life in fellowship with Christ, and my life in fellowship with yours.”

– Gary Burge

This week, is there someone you need to be honest with? Someone you need to forgive—or ask forgiveness from?

Let the light of Christ lead the way.