

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND: CHRIST OUR LIGHT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the Old Testament Tabernacle, the Golden Lampstand (or *Menorah*) stood in the Holy Place and provided the only light in that sacred, enclosed space. Handcrafted from a single piece of pure, hammered gold, it featured a central shaft with six branches (seven in all), decorated with almond blossoms, buds, and petals. Priests kept its oil lamps burning continuously.

Spiritually, the lampstand points directly to Jesus Christ. While the Tabernacle had no natural windows, the lampstand illuminated the showbread and the altar of incense, showing that without divine light, humanity remains in spiritual darkness. In the New Testament, this physical shadow finds its fulfillment in Jesus, who illuminates our hearts, and in the Church, which is called to carry His light into a dark world.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Share a time when you were caught completely in the dark (a power outage, a cave tour, or losing your way at night). What was your immediate reaction, and how did your perspective change the moment a single light source was introduced?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE SYMBOLISM OF GUIDANCE AND WITNESS

Read: Exodus 25:31-40

The detailed instructions God gave Moses on Mount Sinai emphasize that He cares about the lampstand's exact design. It was not merely functional; it was highly symbolic of God's presence, guidance, and the witness of His truth among His people.

1. Why do you think God commanded the lampstand to be made of *pure gold* and hammered from a *single piece*? What does this meticulous process suggest about the nature of God's light and holiness?

2. The lampstand was the only source of light inside the Holy Place. How does this exclusive light source shape our understanding of how we receive spiritual guidance and truth versus relying on human wisdom?

3. The design incorporated almond blossoms, which in Hebrew culture symbolized wakefulness and early blooming (the almond tree is the first to wake up in spring). How does this symbol connect to the lampstand's purpose as a continuous witness?

JESUS AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Read John 8:12, 12:46

Jesus directly applies the imagery of the lampstand to Himself. By proclaiming that He is the Light of the World, He invites humanity out of spiritual blindness and into the warmth of His truth.

4. In John 8:12, Jesus says that whoever follows Him "will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." What does it practically look like in daily life to transition from walking in darkness to walking in His light?

5. Consider the context of John 8:12 (which occurs during the Feast of Tabernacles, when massive lampstands were lit in the Temple court). How does knowing this historical setting deepen your appreciation of Jesus' claim?

6. According to John 12:46, Jesus came so that "whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." Why is belief or trust the key catalyst required to see and experience this divine light?

REFLECTING HIS LIGHT TO THE WORLD

Read Matthew 5:14-16; Revelation 1:12-20; Revelation 2:5

The metaphor does not end with Jesus. As believers, we become part of the lampstand's collective witness. The New Testament establishes that local churches are lampstands meant to hold high the light of Christ to a watching world.

7. Matthew 5:14 states, "You are the light of the world." Since a lampstand does not create its own light but merely holds it, how does this change the way you view your personal responsibility to do "good works"?

8. In Revelation 1, John sees the glorified Jesus standing **among** seven golden lampstands (the churches). What comfort and accountability do you draw from knowing Jesus walks among our Christian communities today?

9. Revelation 2:5 contains a sobering warning to the church in Ephesus about removing their lampstand if they do not repent of losing their "first love." What causes a church's or an individual believer's light to grow dim, and how do we prevent it?

PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL

Reflect:

- Take a moment to quiet your heart and picture the Holy Place. See the warm, steady glow of the golden lampstand pushing back the heavy shadows. That same light is not confined to an ancient tent; He lives inside you.
- Jesus does not ask you to manufacture your own goodness, strength, or wisdom. He simply asks you to be a branch connected to the main shaft, letting His holy oil—the Holy Spirit—fuel your witness. If your light has felt dim lately, you may be trying to shine with your own energy instead of resting in His presence.

Journaling Prompt:

- *In what area of my life (family, workplace, thought patterns, habits) am I currently allowing darkness or shadows to linger? How can I intentionally open that specific space up to the light of Christ today?*

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
