

“How bright is your light?”

February 2009

Hymn “A light is gleaming” VU 82

Scripture Matthew 5: 14 - 17

Prayer Let us pray – Surprising God, whose love leads us to new experiences, help us to be open to your appearance among us and within us. Let us sense your glory in the sights and sounds of this day. Confront us with your law and the prophetic word, that our lives may more fully reflect your purposes. May your Spirit move us to speak of the light that you reveal. Amen.

Lesson No one would have been surprised if Nelson Mandela had emerged from his years of captivity a bitter man, but instead he turned inward, examining his soul, and finding moral courage and insight. It is from him that we receive these words of encouragement:

“Our worst fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, “Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?” Actually, who are you *not* to be?

You are a child of God: your playing small doesn’t serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone, and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

Discussion In small groups, talk about the following:

- What are we doing as an AOTS club to reflect the light of God?
- How am I as an individual brightening our world?

Prayer Let us pray –Our God, only when we are willing to open our eyes to greatness around us do we recognize the smallness within. Lift our eyes to the hills, that we may be humbled by their strength. Direct our gaze towards strong lives around us that we may wish for change in ourselves. Above all, we pray that we may find in the brightness of Christ’s own life the thin threadbare shadows of our own goodness. Thus may we give your spirit a chance to grow in us and to bring us closer to your glory. Amen