



# COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

## The Hills / Week 2

### SERIES OVERVIEW

#### SERIES SUMMARY

A series about shining the light of Jesus with your life.

#### SERIES BOTTOM LINE

A series about shining the light of Jesus with your life.

#### WEEKLY BOTTOM LINES

WEEK 1: God created you to shine.

WEEK 2: God's light in you brings order to chaos.

WEEK 3: God's light in you brings light to others.

### SCRIPTURE

*The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night" (Genesis 1:2-5a NLT).*

*"then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light" (Luke 11:36b NLT).*

### NOTES FOR THIS WEEK

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

As you talk about the way light brings order to chaos, keep in mind that chaos is relative to your students. Some may find chaos in a messy room, a bad grade, or the loss of a game. Others may find it in the loss of a loved one, the break-up of their family, or a toxic relationship. Some may be living in a heightened state of chaos in their homes, their emotions, their communities, or even in their physical bodies. So, as you talk about the way light can bring peace and order over chaos, don't dismiss or diminish what feels chaotic to your students even if it seems insignificant to you. With that, acknowledge the fact that you may have students in your circle who are the victims of chaotic circumstances or people, and finding order or restoration in those places isn't as simple. If you have students who may need additional help or support, follow up with them after group one-on-one. And no matter what, remind students that even in the midst of incredible chaos, God's light is always shining and will always break through.

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## INTERACTIVE 1: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

### OVERVIEW

For this Interactive, you'll use light-up running vests to illustrate the way we can bring light into the darkness of the world around us.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A light-up running vest or an image of a light-up running vest (We've found searching the phrase "light-up running vest" can yield good image results.)
- A light-up dog collar or an image of a light-up dog collar (We've found searching the phrase "light-up dog collar" can yield good image results.)
- A way to display the images if using them

### PREP

- If you have purchased the vest and collar, test them to make sure the lights work prior to your talk.
- Place the vest and collar on the stage where you can reach them to use during the Truth section of your talk.
- If using images, have them ready to be displayed during the Truth section of your talk.

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## TEACHING OUTLINE

### INTRODUCTION

- Can we be history enthusiasts for a minute?
- In the year 536 A.D., a volcanic eruption in Iceland spread ash across the Northern Hemisphere, creating a fog so thick and massive that it altered global climate patterns and caused years of famine.
- Much of the world went dark for a full 18 months.
- The point of this history lesson? To ask you to consider this: Have you ever been in that kind of darkness?

### TENSION

- There is a lot of chaos and darkness in the world right now. *[Give relevant examples.]*
- I bet for some of you, it feels like you're stumbling your way through life as you walk forward into the darkness of your current situation.
- What the world is facing today—and what some of you may be experiencing personally—reminds me of the opening verses of Genesis:
  - *The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night" (Genesis 1:2-5a NLT).*
- The phrase "without form and void" in the original Hebrew is "Tohu Va-Vohu." It's difficult to translate, but one of the best definitions is chaotic and empty.
- I bet there are some of you today who feel like your world is chaotic and empty, right? *[Give relevant examples.]*
- What happens next in the story has the power to bring hope and purpose into whatever situation you are facing.

## TRUTH

- In that passage, God speaks into the darkness, chaos, and emptiness with four important words: *"Let there be light!"*
- When God saw the light, it was called *"good."*
- Then, God goes about the process of separating light from darkness.
- Despite this being a Hebrew poem written thousands of years ago, I believe it can bring hope into your situation today.
- First, the Hebrew word we translate as "light" in this verse is the word "ohr," which is made up of three ancient Hebrew letters—aleph, vav and resh—that have an ancient root that means to bring order to chaos.
- God didn't just shine a light into the darkness in creation; God brought order to chaos.
- Second, the mechanism that God uses to bring light into the darkness and chaos of the world today is you!
- God uses all of us to bring order, peace, and light into the world around us.
- God's light in you brings order to chaos.
- **[INTERACTIVE: Light in the Darkness: This is where you'll use light-up running vests to illustrate the way we can bring light into the darkness of the world around us.]**
- This is what God is asking us to do. To light up the darkness. To carry a light with us.
- With all of the darkness and chaos in the world, it's the followers of Jesus who have the opportunity to bring order to chaos.
- When you follow His example in the way you live, look what happens:
  - *"then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light" (Luke 11:36b NLT).*

## APPLICATION

- To apply this simple idea, let me challenge you to ask yourself a few really important questions.
- First, who in your immediate sphere of influence seems as if their life is in chaos?
- Here's another question: How can you help lighten the burden or relieve the stress of someone you know or care about?
- Remember, not every burden is your responsibility. We don't want you to feel the pressure to do something about a situation you have no control over. If that's the case, the best you can do to help is to tell a trusted adult you know right away.
- Finally, maybe the most pressing question is one to ask yourself: How do you need to bring order into your own chaos?
- Remember, God's light in you brings order to chaos.

## LANDING

- When we have order in our own lives, we're in a better position to help bring order to the chaos in other people's lives.
- God's light in you brings order to chaos.
- Where do you see a need for God's light around you?

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## TEACHING SLIDES

All bolded words and phrases in the Teaching Script are also provided as teaching slides for Premium Tier subscribers.

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# TEACHING SCRIPT

## The Hills / Week 2

### BOTTOM LINE

GOD'S LIGHT IN YOU BRINGS ORDER TO CHAOS.

### INTRODUCTION

2 MINUTES

Okay, can we be history enthusiasts for a minute? In the year 536 A.D., a volcanic eruption in Iceland spread ash across the Northern Hemisphere, creating a fog so thick and massive that it altered global climate patterns and caused years of famine.<sup>1</sup> Much of the world went dark for a full 18 months.<sup>2</sup> It is said that people couldn't see their own shadows, even at noon!

The Byzantine historian Procopius wrote that "the sun gave forth its light without brightness, like the moon, during this whole year." He also wrote that it seemed like the sun was constantly in eclipse, and, during this time, "men were free neither from war nor pestilence nor any other thing leading to death."

The fog blocked the sun during the day, causing temperatures to drop, crops to fail, and people to die. This period of cold and starvation caused economic stagnation in Europe that intensified in 541 A.D. when the first bubonic plague broke out. The plague killed between one-third and one-half of the population in the Byzantine Empire.

The point of this history lesson? To ask you to consider this: **Have you ever been in that kind of darkness?**

Okay, it's been thousands of years, but you know what I'm talking about.

Sure, maybe the power goes out at school or in a theater (and there is always that one friend who screams like an opera singer and scares everyone else!). Or maybe you woke up in the middle of the night and stumbled around in the dark to find a light switch. Either way, you know the chaos that can happen when you suddenly find yourself surrounded by darkness.

It's easy to feel lost when you can't see your hand in front of your face, right?

<sup>1</sup> [https://history.fas.harvard.edu/files/gibbons\\_a\\_2018\\_science\\_mag\\_re\\_ad536.pdf](https://history.fas.harvard.edu/files/gibbons_a_2018_science_mag_re_ad536.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/536-volcanic-eruption-fog-eclipse-worst-year#>

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## TENSION

1 1/2 MINUTES

Here's the thing. There is a lot of chaos and darkness in the world right now. There's political upheaval, war, disease, and illness, and financial and cost of living difficulties. It seems like there's always something in the news that is causing disruption and bringing chaos into people's lives.

But it's not just national or state-level chaos. You may be experiencing your own personal season of chaos right now. I bet for some of you, it feels like you're stumbling your way through life as you walk forward into the darkness of your current situation.

What the world is facing today—and what some of you may be experiencing personally—reminds me of the opening verses of Genesis, where there was darkness over the earth. In the Biblical account of creation, we read this:

***The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night" (Genesis 1:2-5a NLT).***

The phrase "without form and void" in the original Hebrew is "**Tohu Va-Vohu**" (תוהו ובוהו, pronounced "Tohu Va-Vohu"). It's difficult to translate, but one of the best definitions is **chaotic and empty**.

I bet there are some of you today who feel like your world is chaotic and empty, right?

Maybe there is chaos in your family.  
Perhaps there is chaos in your neighborhood.  
Maybe school and your schedule feel chaotic.  
Perhaps you are a junior or senior and the future feels chaotic.  
Maybe you are a freshman and all of the newness feels overwhelming.

We could name things for days, right?

Well, what happens next in the story has, I believe, the power to bring hope and purpose into whatever situation you are facing. Are you ready?

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## TRUTH

3 1/2 MINUTES

In that passage, God speaks into the darkness, chaos, and emptiness with four important words:

***"Let there be light!"***

Immediately, the author tells us that there was light across the whole earth. And when God saw the light, it was called **"good."**

In the next part of the poem, God goes about the process of separating light from darkness.

Now, some of you may be wondering, *Well, what does this have to do with me and my current situation?* Well, despite this being a Hebrew poem written thousands of years ago, I believe it can bring hope into your situation today.

Let me explain.

First, the Hebrew word we translate as “light” in this verse is the word “*ohr*” (אור pronounced “ore”), which is made up of three ancient Hebrew letters; aleph, vav and resh. These letters have an ancient root which means **to bring order to chaos**.

So, when God declared “*let there be light*” in the creation story, God didn't just shine a light into the darkness. **God brought order to chaos.**

Think back to the last time you woke up in the middle of the night and were stumbling around trying to find your phone or a light switch. I bet you were taking small, uncertain steps, reaching out to stop yourself from bumping into things and getting hurt, right? But as soon as you switched a light on, suddenly you could see every step in front of you. Then, you could walk around confidently.

Order was brought to your chaos.

You see, in God's Kingdom, there is order.

Second, as we discussed last week, the mechanism that God uses to bring light into the darkness and chaos of the world today is you! The way God continues to separate the light from the darkness is through everyone who calls themselves a follower of Jesus.

God uses all of us to bring order, peace, and light into the world around us. God uses you to bring order to people who are in need or who are hurting. We are the ones God has called to bring order into the chaos of people's lives.

The reality is that **God's light in you brings order to chaos.**

This idea was backed up by Jesus who once said when compassion for others is a central part of who we are as His followers, our bodies literally fill with His light, shining brightly in a dark world and bringing glory to God.

### **INTERACTIVE: Light in the Darkness**

*This is where you'll use light-up running vests to illustrate the way we can bring light into the darkness of the world around us.*

Have you ever seen someone running in the dark? I've seen people who get up super early to run or run at night after most people are done for the day. To make sure that they're safe, they wear a light-up running vest. *[Put on a running vest or display an image of a light-up running vest.]* They even make cute light-up dog collars! *[Show the collar or display an image of a light-up dog collar.]*

This is what God is asking us to do. We all have different personalities—just like these vests come in different colors. But the point is still the same: **to light up the darkness.** To carry a light with us. *[Remove the vest.]*

You see, with all of the darkness and chaos in the world, it's the followers of Jesus who have the opportunity to bring order to chaos. To shine light into the darkness. Jesus said it Himself! When you follow His example in the way you live, look what happens:

***“then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light” (Luke 11:36b NLT).***

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## APPLICATION

2 MINUTES

To apply this simple idea, let me challenge you to ask yourself a few really important questions.

First, **who in your immediate sphere of influence seems as if their life is in chaos?** It really isn't that difficult to notice when someone's world is spiraling into chaos. Maybe it's so obvious that you already know who and what it is. Or maybe it is more subtle. It is a change in their attitude. They seem really distracted. They are sad or rushed. You can bring order by showing compassion and peace to people around you who need a kind word, a simple acknowledgment, or even a hug.

Here's another question: **How can you help lighten the burden or relieve the stress of someone you know or care about?** Maybe it isn't enough to just say something. Maybe God is pressing you to *do* something. Offer to help. Or, consider figuring out how to help without the person who needs help even knowing it is you. We shine a light when we help others carry the burdens they are struggling with.

Just a quick note here. Not every burden is your responsibility. There are things that adults need to deal with on their own. We don't want you to feel the pressure to do something about a situation you have no control over. There are also situations where someone is being hurt by someone else, hurting themselves, or hurting someone else. If that's the case, the best you can do to help is to tell a trusted adult you know right away.

Finally, maybe the most pressing question is one to ask yourself: **How do you need to bring order into your own chaos?**

As author Bob Goff once wrote; **"Darkness wants us to live our lives worn out. Rest is holy."**

Maybe the order that you need to bring to your chaos right now is to find time to rest. So many of us feel like we can barely catch our breath in between all the school, family, work, and social pressure we have. It impacts us physically, mentally, and emotionally, creating chaos in almost every aspect of our lives.

**God's light in you brings order to chaos.**

And if we want to bring order to other people's chaos and shine a light into their darkness, we have to first bring order to our own situation. One of the best ways to do that is to get some rest!

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## LANDING

1 MINUTE

When we have order in our own lives, we're in a better position to help bring order to the chaos in other people's lives.

Imagine if God can shine light into the chaos other people are experiencing.

Imagine if God uses you to help relieve some of the chaos around you.

Imagine if you were able to get some rest and that brought some level of order to the chaos you're facing.

This is just what God does. It's what God has been doing from the very beginning.

**God's light in you brings order to chaos.**

So, when you go to Small Groups, think about your answer to this question: **Where do you see a need for God's light around you?**



## TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS

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