



## Come and See, Go and Tell

*(Leaders and participants are encouraged to look up Bible passages for most effective study. Passages are printed below for ease in presentation.)*

A new literary genre called the six-word memoir has arisen in the last several years. Folklore says Ernest Hemmingway was once in a restaurant and was challenged to write a story — complete with plot, character, and conflict — in only six words. The legend goes on to say he penned this story: “For sale: baby shoes, never worn”, but no one knows if this one-sentence story actually comes from Hemmingway. Discuss with your partner or the small group what this six-word story might tell.

**Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share. Make it clear that everything confided within the group stays within the group. The leader should start to begin discussion.**

The idea of a six-word memoir is intriguing. Spend a few minutes right now to write a six-word memoir about your life. If you are comfortable, share with your partner or the small group.

**Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share if they are comfortable doing so. Answers could include: “Not quite what I was planning,” “I’m turning into my mother,” “I still make coffee for two,” “To be, or not to be,” “I keep trying to be me,” or “Christian. Redeemed. Widowed. Mother. Grandmother. Friend.”**

As we come and study God’s Word, we see that our spiritual eyes should always be focused on our Savior — the Word made flesh — Who has brought light into the darkness of our sin. How drastically that has changed things for each of us who believe in Jesus and His saving work on the cross! Our Spirit-led vision then turns outward as we focus our eyes on the mission of spreading the Gospel message to those who have not heard.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Father in heaven, thank You for Your creation we see all around us. You are our mighty and awesome God. We know we once lived in the darkness of our sins, but, in mercy, You sent Your only Son, the Light of the World, to live a perfect life, suffer, and die for our sins. Because He rose from the dead, we, too, will rise to eternal life and see the glories of heaven. Thank You for the gift of Your Spirit. Our Comforter gives us faith to believe and keeps us focusing in You. Through Your Spirit, please make us bold to witness, telling others of Your saving Gospel, and to invite them to “Come, see, what God has done.” In Your name we pray, Amen.

### Come and See

Read **Genesis 3:1–7, 15**. What were the sins of Adam and Eve? **disobedience, adding to God’s Law (neither shall you touch it), wanting to be like God** When did God first tell of His salvation plan in Jesus? **Genesis 3:15 = “protoevangelium” or the First Gospel; right after Adam and Eve had sinned!** Why did we need a Savior? **because our sin separates us from God; Adam and Eve’s original sin that we inherit makes us all natural enemies of God**

**Genesis 3:1-7, 15: <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.**

**<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”**

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Come and See, Go and Tell Bible Study Leader Guide

Paul elaborates in **Ephesians 5:6–14** (see also **John 1:1–4, 9**; **Philippians 2:5–11**) about our dark world of sin, inherited from Adam and Eve. Who shines Light into our darkened world? **Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord** How? **by humbling Himself, becoming a man, living a perfect life, suffering, dying for our sins, and rising again** What does that mean for all Spirit-filled believers? See also **Daniel 12:3**, **Matthew 5:14–16**, and **Philippians 2:15**. **we become His lights in this depraved generation; walk as children of light and shine like stars**

**Ephesians 5:6-14:** <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

**John 1:1-4, 9:** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

**Philippians 2:5-11:** <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Daniel 12:3:** <sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

**Matthew 5:14-16:** <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Philippians 2:15:** <sup>15</sup> ... that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Paul writes even more to his congregation in Ephesus. Read **Ephesians 1:13–14**. In addition, read **Romans 1:16**, **Romans 6:4**, and **Mark 14:22–24**. What tools does the Spirit use when working faith in us? **the Means of Grace, His Word and Sacraments (Baptism, The Lord's Supper)** Why should we stay focused daily on God's powerful Word and participate regularly in the Sacraments? **through them, the Spirit works as He sanctifies, strengthens, and keeps us in the one true faith**

**Ephesians 1:13-14:** <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**Romans 1:16:** <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**Romans 6:4:** <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Mark 14:22-24:** <sup>22</sup> And as they were eating, he [Jesus] took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

Paul continues writing in **Ephesians 1:15–19**. For what is Paul thankful? **he is thankful that they have faith in Jesus and show love to their brothers and sisters in Christ** What action does he take in response? **he thanks God for them and prays for them** What are his prayer requests for the Ephesians (and us) in verses 17–19? **that the Spirit of God continue to work in them through the Word; that they might continue to grow in the knowledge of God, begun in their Baptism; that they might live in the hope of eternal life in heaven with Jesus**

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,<sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.

In **Ephesians 1:18**, Paul focuses our vision and encourages us to have *the eyes of your hearts enlightened*. When does the Holy Spirit enlighten the spiritual eyes of our heart? **when the Spirit gives the gift of faith in Jesus through Baptism and His Word – we are “illuminated” – the phrase used in the prayer following Baptism when receiving a burning candle begins: “Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the World. Live always in the light of Christ ...” (ref. Lutheran Service Book, Holy Baptism, page 271)** See **1 Peter 2:9–10** and **Titus 3:4–7**.

**1 Peter 2:9–10:** <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**Titus 3:4–7:** <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Read about Paul's own enlightenment in **Acts 26:12–18** and **9:18–19**. Discuss. **Discussion will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**Acts 26:12–18:** <sup>12</sup> “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup> At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. <sup>14</sup> And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ <sup>15</sup> And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup> But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, <sup>17</sup> delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

**Acts 9:18–19:** <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.

In **2 Peter 1:16–21**, Peter says that ... *we were eyewitnesses of his majesty*. Read this passage, and **John 1:14** and **1 John 1:1–4**. Share what the disciples saw **they witnessed Jesus at the Transfiguration, witnessed Jesus preaching and teaching, saw Him die on the cross, saw Him alive again after the resurrection** and how we know that this is sure (**2 Timothy 3:16–17**)? **they witnessed it and that witness is recorded in God's inerrant Word – it happened!**

**2 Peter 1:16–21:** <sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**John 1:14:** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**1 John 1:1–4:** <sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17:** <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Paul continues writing to the church in Ephesus in **Ephesians 1:19–23**. He speaks of the glorious inheritance that they have as believers in Jesus Christ. What is that inheritance (see also **1 Peter 1:3–4**)? **eternal life in heaven with our Lord and Savior; imperishable, undefiled, unfading, a living hope** <sup>19</sup> ... and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you ...

## Go and Tell

**Faith Talk:** Think of these six words: “The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!” How could you use these words to share the hope we have in Christ, the *glorious inheritance*? Share with a partner or your small group. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

Philip and Nathanael were friends. Read **John 1:43–46**. What first happened to Philip and then how does he immediately respond? **Jesus, the Word made flesh, “found” Philip and gave him faith; Philip “found” Nathanael and brought him to Jesus; Philip wanted his friend to know the Good News about Jesus** <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

How do Peter and John respond when asked not to preach about Jesus in **Acts 4:18–20**? **we must speak of Jesus and all that we have seen and heard** <sup>18</sup> So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, <sup>20</sup> for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

**Faith Talk:** Identify someone you know who might need to hear the Gospel message of salvation. Spirit-emboldened, how would you express that message of God’s love for us in Christ Jesus to that person? Be specific. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**Faith Talk:** Words are interesting. A group of six words can even tell the Gospel message — a six-word **witness** memoir. Consider these: “God is our Refuge and Strength,” “Jesus came to save all sinners,” God so loved the world that ...,” “Died on Friday; rose on Sunday,” “And I will be your God,” “With God all things are possible,” “I was lost; now I’m found,” “This day you’ll be in paradise,” “He’s not here; He is risen,” “Jesus is my Lord and God,” “Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you,’” or “Come and see; go and tell.” Share with a partner or the small group which of the above six-word phrases could enable you to witness to your faith. How might that happen? **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

### **Faith Walk:**

1. Praise the Lord for the gift of life and eternal life in Jesus.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you focused on the Word and to give you the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to those still living in the darkness of sin.
3. Compose your own six-word witness memoir to help you in sharing the Good News about Jesus.
4. Memorize Revelation 1:4–8.
5. Pray that God’s will be done in your life and in the lives of those around you.

### ***Closing Litany***

Leader: *Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

**Response:** *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Leader: *Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!*

**Response:** *Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.*

Leader: *Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.*

**Response:** *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”*

**All:** *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

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