**Discussion Guide for Community Groups**

**Light/the Default Position of the Church**

**Icebreakers:**

1. How would your life be affected if electricity had yet to be discovered? (What daily routines, if any, would be changed?)
2. Have you prepared for the next big storm when the electricity is knocked off line? (What have you done to prepare?)
3. In what ways has electricity been a helpful provision in your life?

**Background:** *It is hard to imagine our lives without the benefit of electricity. It takes energy to produce light, heat, and movement. Most astrophysicists believe that the default “position” of the universe is darkness. It is simply a void. In order for the Universe to be more than just a great void to takes the input of energy. What is the source of needed energy? Can a void produce its own source of energy? Is it true that nothing can come from nothing? As Believers, we believe that God stepped into the void and supplied the necessary energy to change the Universe from being an empty void into a Universe bursting with multiple sources of energy.*

**John 1:1-5 NASB95**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. [4] In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. [5] The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

1. What is the significance of Jesus (the Word) being identified as God?
2. According to John, what role did Jesus have in the creation?
3. What is the similarity between the darkness of the universes’ default position and the spiritual darkness of this world?
4. John identifies 4 characteristics of Jesus in these verses. Please note that as far as orthodox Christian theology is concerned, these four beliefs are non-negotiable.
   1. Jesus has always existed
   2. Jesus is God
   3. Jesus was involved in the creation
   4. Jesus is the source of light and life.

**Matthew 5:14-16 NASB95**

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; [15] nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. [16] Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

1. Why did Jesus identify His disciples as being the light of the world?
2. How can be live out this idea of “being the light of the world” in our own lives?
3. What should be some of the visible spiritual fruit that is demonstrated in the life of a Believer?

**Matthew 6:22-23 NASB95**

“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. [23] But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

1. What do you think Jesus was referring to in these two verses?
2. Why is “what you believe” so crucial?
3. As a follower of Christ, how do you personally go about protecting your mind from thoughts that simply “wrong?”

**Wrap-up:** *For Believers, who are living in difficult times, how do we go about our lives expressing the truth that “the righteous will live by faith?” One of the greatest tools of the Enemy is the tool of fear. In the words of Jesus, if “fear” becomes our “light” (a false light) how great is the darkness! How can we protect our minds while living in a world full of worry, fear and doubt?*