



# EASTSIDE

*Trinity Gospel Tabernacle*

**1111 S. Drexel Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Sunday School Lesson  
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

DATE March 1, 2020

**Pastor: Kevin Webb**

## Sunday School Lesson

### Stained Glass Windows

Beautiful, ornate and full of stories, stained glass windows are used in many different settings to provide a unique focal point and to convey a message to those who see it. Today, in our lesson we will compare the believers experience in Christ to stained glass windows in an effort to reconnect ourselves as believers with the overall purpose in the body of Christ.

Why doesn't God just rapture us at the point of salvation? Why does he cause us to remain here in a sinful world after being gloriously saved by the blood of Christ? While there are several answers to these questions, today we will focus just one of those answers – and that being to share Jesus with this world. Much like the stained-glass window, the believer's life has to go through a transformation to become the beautiful product that is seen by all those who come passed them. The Believer's experience should be a stained-glass window in the world today.

Study Scripture –

*Matt 5:1-16; John 8:12-30; John 14:1-6; John Ch 17; Eph Ch 5; Gal Ch 5; Isaiah 9:1-2*

Springboard Scripture –

*John 14:4-6 - <sup>4</sup> And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. <sup>5</sup> Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? <sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

*John 8:12 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

*Matt 5:14-16 - "14": Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*"15": Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. "16": Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

### Stained Glass Windows Tell A Story -

As we set in this sanctuary today, we can see in our minds eye beautiful windows of stained glass that we have observed over time. Each one tells a story to those who look on it. Beautiful colors and excellent cuts and shapes come together to form the story in each window. In churches and cathedrals all around the world today, people are absorbing the stories told in these stained-glass windows.

As believers, our lives are filled up with Christ and the Holy Ghost is working in and through our lives to convey the perfect will and hope of Jesus. As a stained-glass window tells a story written by those who created the window the believer's life should tell a story of the great love and compassion of Christ himself. Not just any old story, but the story that the Creator of this life wants to tell. Like anything else, when Jesus has a plan to share His love, the devil has a plan to destroy it. In today's world of social media, texting and email Christians have lost some of their ability to communicate the love and compassion of Christ to each other and to this world. We have come to a point where we deal with our problems, concerns and issues through a text message or email instead of looking people in the face and truly communicating with them. In doing this we have lost our ability to provide the other integral parts of the communication process such as verbal inflection, body language and touch. Because of this the Passion, Love, Loyalty, Compassion, Concern, Fear, Anger, and many other tools of communication are lost in the written communication. In fact, not only are these tools of the writer lost, but they are then left open to the interpretation of the reader to fill in the lost tools or the blanks in the message that would be filled by face to face or verbal communication. We as believers are Jesus' stained-glass windows telling the story of Jesus' soul saving, life transforming, Holy Ghost inspiring change that has been made in our life and we should be very comfortable sharing that

## Sunday School Lesson

### Stained Glass Windows

work with this world.

#### **What Does it Take to Make a Stained-Glass Window -?**

As I studied and researched this lesson, I spoke with a friend who makes stained glass windows about what all was included in the process of making a window. Time today does not permit us to discuss the lengthy process, but suffice to say there is much labor, time and most of all passion put into to works that are created on her table. She did share that one of the most important parts of making a stained-glass window though was the materials. The glass, often very fragile and costly, has to be made in such a manner that it is able to be cut and broken to allow proper fit into the work. We see that this is not unlike the work Jesus does in our lives as the Potter - *Isaiah 64:8: But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.* The other material used is the “binding” or the lead and solder used to hold the glass all together. She commented that without this the glass would lose the shape and the picture would be lost. We again see this as the expectation of the Body of Christ – and “*Christ being the head”, the body is “fitly joined together”* to accomplish the *edification of the Body in love – Eph 4:15-16.* Often times we fail and fall, but it is in the hands of Christ that we are made new and placed into the beautiful work that He has for, if we only allow Him to accomplish that work, He has started in us. As the Stained-glass window is unique, even if duplicated, none are ever absolutely identical; so it is with each individual believer. We are each unique and bring a special, one of a kind quality to the Body of Christ. My story in Christ is different than yours but Christ wants them all to be told.

#### **It is the Light That Brings the Window to Life -**

As beautiful as these stained-glass windows are, they cannot be seen much at all until the sunlight begins to shine through them. Then the vibrant colors come to life and we are able to see fully the pictured story being told. We can see every aspect of the colored glass and binding coming together to fill our imagination with the greatness of the work. With these awe-inspiring moments coming forth out of the sunlight shining behind them our minds begin to open up and be filled with the story being told. It is worthy to note though that it is the sunlight that fully brings these windows to life. The artificial light that is provided does little to fully illuminate the story found in the glass and the details that bring the fullness of the story are unable to be seen.

So it is in our Christian experience. Believers today are walking around shining an artificial light on the stories of their life, but so much of the story is being missed that it really is not a complete story at all. There is no substitute for the SONlight of Christ in our lives. If we will ever be anything useful or beautiful it will be only when Christ is allowed to illuminate our lives with His light. Jesus said “I am the Light of the World.” and “the Light of Life” (Jn 8:12).

Artificial light often times causes more problems than it does any good. When we try to shine a human light or worldly light on this Godly work of art it diminishes the overall outcome of the story. In fact, “the negative effects of artificial lighting have been noticed in both plants and animals. John Ott, of the Time Lapse Research Laboratory, discovered that the apples on a branch of a tree under artificial light grew larger than those growing under natural light, but they did not mature or ripen and the fruit never acquired color until exposed to ultraviolet rays from the sun.” Additionally, the study of artificial light on humans showed a decrease in calcium and vitamin “B” absorption which will eventually lead to a break down in bone density and skin tissue. We need the sunlight in our bodies to survive as healthy people. The artificial light of this world instead of the perfect work of Christ in our lives will only lead to a diminished work in our lives. We need the SON light of Jesus shining through our lives to survive as Christians and to share His beautiful stories with this world.

We are all Stained-Glass Windows that Christ is making to tell stories to our sons and daughters, family, friends and the world. But for our stories to really be told we need Jesus in our lives to make the difference. Are we willing to be a beautiful story for Jesus and allow the SONlight to shine

