

Gospel Truths - Called Out of Darkness



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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.

- 1 Peter 2:9

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Do you remember the story of Lazarus? Jesus' friend was sick, but by the time he got there Lazarus had died. But Jesus wasn't worried. He went to the tomb and had them roll away the stone. He said, "Lazarus, come out!" What happened? Lazarus obeyed Jesus' call. He stepped out of the dark tomb and into the light.

If you're a Christian, God has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. What does this mean?

Darkness gives us a picture of what it looks like to live without Jesus. If you're in darkness, it means you don't know God. You don't live to please God. Because of sin, you will always choose to say no to God.

Thankfully, God doesn't leave us in the dark. In salvation, God makes a special invitation to those he has chosen to save. We sometimes call this *the gospel call*. In the gospel call, God makes sure that his chosen people hear the message of the gospel and respond to that message by trusting in Jesus. When God calls, people turn to him and are saved. Just like Jesus called Lazarus and brought him back to life, God calls his people and gives them life in his Son. Have you responded to God's call? If so, pray and thank God for calling and saving you!

- Is it better to live in darkness or light? Why?
- If you're a Christian, who do you belong to? Yourself or someone else?
- Why would you want to proclaim the excellencies of God? What are some ways you can do this?