

Learning to Walk in the Dark
Chapter Three
Hampered by Brilliance

This study guide is formatted for a small group gathering. If you choose to use it as a small group leader or as an individual, feel free to adapt it in whatever way seems meaningful to you. Enjoy!

Amy Fryar Kennedy

Quotes and ideas worth repeating:

The Milky Way is invisible to 2/3 of Americans (page 59)

Related Scripture:

Genesis 15:1-6 *God tells Isaiah to count the stars*

Psalms 8, Psalm 148

Acts 9:1-19 *Saul on the Road to Damascus*

Centering Song: “The Longest Night” by Peter Mayer (Midwinter CD)
or “The Play” by Peter Mayer (Earth Town Square CD)

Introductions:

Report back about walking through your house at night.

Tell of a time when you saw an amazing nighttime sky.

Reflection/discussion:

BBT: *The night sky will heal me-not just by reassuring me that I will be just fine, but by reminding me of my place in the universe.* (page 64)

Is this true for you?

Read BBT’s account of the confused turtle at the shore. (pages 66-68)

What happens to our bodies when we turn on a light during the night? (page 69)

Who is more hampered-our ancestors by darkness or us by brilliance?

From www.nobelprize.org:

[The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences](http://www.nobelprize.org) has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2014 to

Isamu Akasaki of Meijo University, Nagoya, Japan and Nagoya University, Japan

Hiroshi Amano of Nagoya University, Japan

and Shuji Nakamura of University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

“for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources”

This year's Nobel Laureates are rewarded for having invented a new energy-efficient and environment-friendly light source – the blue light-emitting diode (LED). In the spirit of Alfred Nobel the Prize rewards an invention of greatest benefit to mankind; using blue LEDs, white light can be created in a new way. With the advent of LED lamps we now have more long-lasting and more efficient alternatives to older light sources.

The LED lamp holds great promise for increasing the quality of life for over 1.5 billion people around the world who lack access to electricity grids: due to low power requirements it can be powered by cheap local solar power.

The invention of the efficient blue LED is just twenty years old, but it has already contributed to create white light in an entirely new manner to the benefit of us all.

We might see these lights showing up inside our refrigerators or in flashlights. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of how LED lighting might affect the daily lives of Americans or the lives of Africans who live in areas without established electricity grids.

Closing: Poem, “Let Evening Come” by Jane Kenyon

Let the light of late afternoon
shine through chinks of the barn, moving
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing
as a woman takes up her needles
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned
in long grass. Let the stars appear
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.
Let the wind die down. Let the shed
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop
in the oats, to air in the lung
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't
be afraid. God does not leave us
comfortless, so let evening come.

Materials need to lead:

Handouts

Midwinter or Earth Town Square CD or ipod and player

Homework for next week:

Last week we walked in the house without the lights on. Take this a step further and try walking to your mailbox in the dark.