

Bright Lights Goals

Bright Lights is a discipleship ministry encouraging young ladies to Be Radiant in Godliness, Holiness, and Testimony.

The goal of Bright Lights is to encourage and equip older girls and mothers to disciple younger girls. This is the pattern we see in Scripture: older women teaching younger ones (Tit. 2:3-5).

Jesus told us to go and make disciples, teaching them everything that He has taught us (Matt. 28:19-20). Paul told Timothy: “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). In Bright Lights, our desire is to disciple girls who will disciple girls who will disciple more girls and so on.

Young ladies everywhere are struggling. On a daily basis they are bombarded with temptations and lies of the enemy and must stand against the powerful cultural influences all around them. They need to know God’s Word and the Biblical answers to their daily struggles. They need Scriptural teaching in practical areas such as relationships with parents and siblings, honesty, purity, friendships, contentment, witnessing, and defending the faith. They need godly role-models and accountability. They need vision for what the Lord can do through their life—especially their teenage years. This is the heart cry of Bright Lights.

Our prayer is that in each Bright Lights group, leaders would lovingly and intentionally train younger girls in the ways of the Lord through their example, leadership, and teaching. As girls receive practical teaching, observe the life of the leader, and experience the fellowship of the group, we pray they would be encouraged to seek the Lord with all their heart and to use the years of their youth for Him.

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12).

Bright Lights Distinctives

- We target pre-teen girls, an important age group that is often overlooked.
- We seek to be discipleship oriented, and to focus on helping the strong be stronger.
- We emphasize Biblical teaching—when Bright Lights groups meet, much of the time is spent in learning and study, as opposed to simply games or fun.
- We try to follow the 2 Timothy 2:2 pattern, training future generations—from the start, we encourage girls to be learning to disciple others.
- We strive for godly fellowship and accountability—since the groups are discipleship focused, they tend to attract serious-minded girls who are seeking the Lord. This provides the groups with positive peer pressure and accountability. We believe this is a very powerful influence in girls’ lives.

Bright Lights Values

❖ Giving

Jesus says, “*Freely ye have received, freely give*” (Matt. 10:8). In order to maintain this testimony of giving freely, we encourage leaders to be willing to bear costs themselves and let the Lord provide without asking for money or charging fees. (We are not saying that the leader must pay for all the materials, but if the Lord so leads, we recommend it.)

Objective: We want the girls and their families to learn the value and power of *giving* by observing the example of leaders who give. We also want leaders who consider it a delight to disciple girls free of charge.

❖ Purity

Since we know that parents are entrusting their daughters to us at Bright Lights meetings, we want to be sensitive to avoid any questionable activities or information. Please show discretion when showing videos or reading books in your group. Also, remember that your attitudes, words, and actions will have a huge impact on the girls who are watching you! Therefore, we encourage leaders to be particularly careful when they talk about music, entertainment, their relationships with young men, etc. (Phil. 4:8; 1 Pet. 1:16).

Objective: We want the girls to maintain an unusual innocence for our day (Rom. 16:19), have a true desire for purity (Matt. 5:8), realize the danger of the world’s thinking and temptations, and commit to honor Christ and their future husbands in their words, attitudes and actions. We encourage each girl in Bright Lights to read *Before You Meet Prince Charming* and *Speak Truth in Your Heart* as soon as she is ready for them (age 11 or so).

❖ Music

Knowing that music has a huge influence in the lives of young ladies, we ask that Bright Lights groups carefully choose the music included in the meetings. Please seek lyrics and music with good, Biblical truth that focuses on the Lord. We have produced the *Let My Life Be a Light* CD and songbook as a resource to help groups in this area. We recommend singing with a piano, guitar, or other acoustic instruments.

Objective: We want girls to learn to appreciate the old hymns and to experience the joy of singing in a way that emphasizes the words of the songs (Eph. 5:19). Many newer songs are also good, but please use discernment as you choose which ones you will sing in your group. Our desire is that Bright Lights would avoid compromise with the world (Rom. 12:1-2), use music to encourage one another and express thankfulness to the Lord (Col. 3:16), honor and be sensitive to every conscience (Rom. 14), and that girls would understand the importance of choosing music that aligns with Philippians 4:8. We want the girls to learn to *sing* heartily to the Lord, not simply be entertained.

❖ Dress

Since one goal of Bright Lights is to encourage girls to be modest and feminine, we ask that Bright Lights leaders be careful to be above reproach in the area of appearance and modesty. We encourage you not to follow culture, but to set it! We have found that when girls dress up for the meetings, it encourages them to treat Bright Lights as an important event and act like young ladies. We suggest you read the sheet called, “What Should I Wear?” in the resource section of this manual (page 23). Also, see Bright Lights Set 8.

Objective: We want girls to understand the battle that is taking place in this area. We want them to learn that as young ladies who represent Christ, they can be stylish and attractive without compromising their testimony of modesty. We do not want to have a dress code, but we do want them to understand the importance of femininity and modesty in clothing as they realize their position as a representative of Jesus Christ.