



Read John 1:4-9; 8:12

⁴In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ⁶There came a man who was sent from God. His name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through him everyone might believe. ⁸He himself was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. ⁹The true Light who gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹²Once again, Jesus spoke to the people and said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."

Background

Today we continue our new series, "Unwrapping Christmas," a four-week journey through the first chapter of the Gospel of John. Last week we saw in the opening verses how Jesus is the eternal Word of God. This week, Pastor David will focus on the truth that Jesus is the light of the world, shining in the darkness. No matter what it looks like in our world today, the darkness cannot overcome the true Light of the World. And when the people of God follow Jesus – the true light – we not only step of darkness in our own lives but we shine brightly for others to see the light that only Jesus can bring to them.

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What was the biggest take away from the message this week? In what ways did you experience God at work in your life this week? How can we pray for you?

Talk it Over

- ▼ **Read John 1:4-5.** From the beginning and through Scripture, light has been vital to sustaining life and driving out darkness. What are some of the many purposes of light in our daily lives? What are the connections to our spiritual lives? What do you think it means that the Light (Jesus) shines in the darkness but the darkness cannot “overcome” or “comprehended” the Light?
- ▼ **Read John 1:6-9; John 8:12.** What do you believe John meant when he called Jesus the “true” light who was “coming into the world” (vs. 9)? If Jesus is the true light, what are some of the “false” lights in this world? What can we learn from the way John (the Baptist) understood his relationship to and role with the Light (vs. 6-8)? What does it mean for Jesus to be the Light of the world? What are the implications for followers of Jesus today?
- ▼ **Read Isaiah 9:1-7 and Matthew 4:12-16.** What is the connection between ‘light’ and the birth of Jesus in the Isaiah passage? In what ways are people still searching for the “light” today? How does Matthew show Jesus as fulfilling the Isaiah passage?
- ▼ **2 Corinthians 4:4-6 and 1 John 1:5-10.** As followers of Jesus, how does Paul describe our mission today? How do followers of Jesus “walk in the light?” What are some of the practical results of “walking in the light?” How should this guide my daily interactions?

Live it Out

Where does it feel like darkness is winning in the world today? What about in your own life? How does knowing Jesus is the True light bring hope and encouragement to you?

