

2021

Everlasting Light Week 1

The power of the presence of Jesus Christ



Overview

Jesus, the Everlasting Light. Sent to right the wrongs of generations past and make eternal provision for generations to come. In humble obedience, Jesus became one of us forever defining the love of God for his children. The greatest rescue mission the world has ever seen was for us. And, with that rescue comes responsibility. Christmas not only freed us, it also commissioned us. This Christmas, we will see together the power of the presence of Jesus.

Week One

What is the message God intended to send through Christmas? Is there a way to know, to see clearly, the way that God feels about us by looking to Bethlehem? The birth and life of Jesus can be summarized with one word: light. From the beginning to its last pages, the Bible unfolds its description of darkness and God's invitation to the light. Nowhere is this merciful invitation more evident than in the life of Jesus Christ, the Everlasting Light.

Scripture: John 3:16-17, Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV), John 3:19-21 (ESV), John 8:12 (ESV), Acts 26:18 (NLT), Ephesians 5:8-11 (ESV), Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)

Key Takeaways & Action Items

- There is great comfort in Jesus Christ.
- we are the reason for the season.
- Jesus made his choice, and now we must make ours: darkness or light?
- The light of Jesus is revealing so that it can be healing.
- The light of Jesus rescues.
- Distance from God means darkness in life.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read John 3:16-17 The Message version
“*We are the reason for the season.*” How does this statement strike you initially?
(^ Ben stated Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection were for US, that is why we need to believe we are WORTH saving, and the reason for Christmas altogether.)
2. With that scripture in mind, we have to get rid of the idea that Jesus HAD to come because we were so bad and replace it with the truth that he **Chose** to come because he wanted to Help, but how can we live out this belief?
3. Read John 3:15-21esv
We see that long before our time, people loved to live in, focus on, and promote the Darkness- what we see today is nothing new. That is why when we live in the Light, we

have to be ready for people to hate us. What are some ways you currently live in Light? What are some ways you want to grow in Light?

4. Last week we stated "What gets your attention, receives your devotion. What gets your devotion, gets your life." So, what is getting your attention? What's your *choice* of focus-darkness or light?
5. How can we make living in the "light" more attractive to other believers and those who do not yet believe?
6. Read Ephesians 5:8-11esv
If we're living in the light, we will be known by the people around us as: Good, Right & True. Do you believe this is how people would describe you? Do you believe this is how YOU would describe you? Is this how people would describe the Church?

Resources

- "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to **point an accusing finger**, telling the world how bad it was. He came to **help**, to put the world right again". John 3:16-17 (MSG)
- Christ Jesus ,who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming **obedient**" Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV)
- And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." John 3:19-21 (ESV)
- I am the light of the world. John 8:12 (ESV)
- to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.' Acts 26:18 (NLT)
- He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a broad place; he **rescued** me, because he delighted in me. For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness. Psalm 18:16-19, 28 (ESV)

- for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, Ephesians 5:8-11 (ESV)
- **He has delivered us** from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)