

# Sermon Guide

## Advent 2023: The Light of Mankind

In John chapter 1 we discover that Jesus came into the world to re-create humans with light.

According to the Scriptures, the problem with the world is spiritual blindness. There is no way to know God other than through the face of Christ. If you don't look him in the face, you will live without light. To live without light is to live without hope, direction, and identity.

When we expose ourselves to the light in the face of Christ, when we look into His eyes, we begin to see ourselves and the world around us, correctly. He came to be generous with all that He is, so that you could see the world with the same generosity.

### Go Deeper.

Our desire is that every person would be empowered to have a deep and intimate relationship with God. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading, after each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

Before working through the activations, read through Isaiah 9:6-7

# Activation #1

In the teaching, Alex talked about how the gospel of Jesus Christ is an invitation to draw near and to expose yourself to the light of God.

Today, look into the face of God. Get yourself into a position where you can expose yourself to Him.

Ask Him to bring to mind an area or situation in your life that you have not exposed to Him. Say, "God, search me and know me. Where have I not exposed myself to your light?"

Ask Him how that area or situation is harming you because you have not exposed it to the Lord. Once this has been identified, show it to God.

Ask Him to show you what He wants to do with it and what He wants for you instead.

When we come out of hiding, our ability to see His glory is restored. To end this activation, ask God to show you His glory, that you would experience more of Him.

## Ways to Pray

**We believe that prayer changes things. This week, we invite you as the church to pray with us:**

- Courage for our church family to live in the light, fully exposed to Jesus
- That our town would be changed by people of God, united in seeing His kingdom come
- That we would see the glory of God through signs and wonders