

# *The TRUE Light Has Come*

Isaiah 9, John 1

Big Idea: Jesus came as the light into our spiritual darkness. He didn't just bring light—He IS the light. And now He calls us to shine that light to others. This Christmas, let your light shine brightly for Jesus in a dark world. The darkness cannot overcome His light.

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## Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus IS the light of the world
2. Jesus came into complete darkness to bring salvation
3. We are called to BE the light of the world to others

## Scriptures:

- ☐ Isaiah 9:1-3, 6
- ☐ Luke 2:8-9, 29-32
- ☐ Matthew 2:2
- ☐ John 1:1-5, 6-14
- ☐ John 8:12
- ☐ Matthew 5:14-16
- ☐ Philippians 2:14-16

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## Opening Question:

What is your favorite type of Christmas decoration, and why does it hold a special meaning for you during the holiday season?

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## Discussion Questions:

Isaiah 9:2 says "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." What does "spiritual darkness" mean to you? How would you describe it to someone unfamiliar with this concept?

Ron shared about being in a completely dark cave where one small match lit up the entire space. How does this illustration help you understand what Jesus did when He came into the world?

Read John 1:5 - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Looking at today's world, why is this truth important to remember? When does it feel like darkness is winning?

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The sermon highlighted several instances of light surrounding Jesus' birth (the glory of the Lord with the shepherds, the star guiding the Magi). Why do you think God chose to use literal light to announce and celebrate Jesus' arrival?

Simeon's declaration in Luke 2:30-32 says, "my eyes have seen your salvation... a light for revelation to the Gentiles." Ron asked: "Have your eyes seen the salvation of Jesus Christ?" How would you answer this question?

Matthew 5:14-16 tells us, "YOU are the light of the world... let your light shine before others." What's the difference between Jesus being the light and us being the light? How can we be light without Jesus?

Ron mentioned that John the Baptist understood he was "not the light, but a witness to the light." Why is this distinction important? How can we sometimes get in the way of what Jesus wants to accomplish?

The sermon emphasized that "the gift of Jesus is meant to be shared with others." Why do you think Christians often keep this gift to themselves? What fears or obstacles prevent us from sharing?

Philippians 2:14-16 challenges us to "shine as lights in the world" by doing "all things without grumbling or disputing." How does our attitude and behavior affect our witness? Can you think of a time when someone's Christ-like attitude drew you closer to God?

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#### Practical Applications:

1. Shine in Your Home: Identify one way you can "shine" for Jesus with your family—through patience, service, forgiveness, or sharing the gospel.
2. Shine in Your Community: Choose one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus and pray daily for them. Look for one opportunity this week to demonstrate Christ's love to them.
3. Shine Through Your Words: Share the gospel message with at least one person this week—whether a friend, coworker, or stranger.
4. Examine Your Light: Do a "light check"—are you grumbling, complaining, or displaying attitudes that dim your witness? Confess and commit to change in one specific area.

#### Closing Thought/Prayer:

As we head into 2026, what would it look like for our small group to collectively be a "light on a hill" in our community?

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