

How would you have felt if two old people gave startling predictions about your son?

What was a startling part of Simeon's prediction?

How has Christ brought "light" (verse 32) to your life?

Thank God today for His love for you shown in Jesus!

Saturday

Today please pray for the weekend services, and finish any devotions you may have missed.

Some questions adapted from The Serendipity Study Bible

MIRACLE

Light for My Dark Days

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"... the one who is **the true light** arrived to shine on everyone..." *John 1:9* (LB)

There are times I experience...

- **The darkness of** _____
"I expected good but evil showed up. I looked for light but **darkness** fell." *Job 30:26* (TM)
- **The darkness of** _____
"I'm completely in the **dark**, I can't see my hand in front of my face." *Job 23:13b* (TM)
- **The darkness of** _____
"Lover, friend, acquaintance — all are gone. There is only **darkness** everywhere." *Psalms 88:18* (LB)
- **The darkness of** _____
"The heart is hopelessly **dark** and deceitful, a puzzle no one can figure out." *Jeremiah 17:9* (TM)

The light of Christ...

1. _____ **God to me**
"He (Jesus) is a **light to reveal God** to the nations..." *Luke 2:32* (NLT)
"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." *John 14:9b* (NLT)
2. _____ **my way**
(Jesus) "I am the light of the world. So if you follow Me, **you won't be stumbling through the darkness**, for living light will flood your path." *John 8:12b* (LB)
3. _____ **my soul**
"... the darkness in our lives disappears and **the new light of life** in Christ shines in."
1 John 2:8b (LB)
4. _____ **my sense of purpose**
"You are the **light** of the world... **let your light shine** before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14a,16* (NIV)

(Jesus) "I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that **all who put their trust in me** will no longer wander in darkness." *John 12:46* (LB)

Moments to Enjoy Christmas

Daily meditations based on this week's message

Monday

Read John 1:1-14 again. Why does this gospel begin “in the beginning” rather than at Christ’s birth like Matthew and Luke?

In what ways is Jesus “the light”?

What is the invitation in verse 12? Is it:

- A. to live a good life
- B. to become religious
- C. to get your act together and become successful
- D. to join the family of God

How is this different from preconceptions about the Christian life?

Ask Jesus to help you see His glory this Christmas season!

Tuesday

What is your most vivid memory as a child of experiencing a dark place (e.g., a cave, tunnel, or power blackout)?

What feelings do you associate with darkness?

Read John 8:12 and John 12:44-46. What is Jesus promising in 8:12? What does this mean?

How is following Jesus like following a light through a dark place for you?

How can you be a light-bearer to others?

Ask God to show you how you can bear the light to others. Thank Him for being the Light!

Wednesday

Read Matthew 1:18-24. How would you feel in Joseph’s place in verse 18? After verses 20-21?

What can this teach you about seemingly terrible events in your life? Jesus is the Greek form of the name “Joshua”, which means “The Lord saves”. How was Jesus similar to and different than the other famous Joshua in the Bible?

In what ways has Jesus saved you? How have you experienced Jesus as “Immanuel”, or “God with us”, lately?

Thank God that Jesus saves!

Thursday

Merry Christmas! Spend some time today simply re-reading the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20. In light of the promises made to them about their son, how might Mary and Joseph have felt when Jesus was born in a stable?

What does this story say about God’s control of political powers and “closed doors”? How can this encourage you?

God appeared to these shepherds when they were just being themselves; doing their jobs. What does this teach you about how God works?

How can this reassure you?

Thank God that Jesus was born!

Friday

Read Luke 2:21-40. What does this story reveal about the parents of Jesus?



“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.”
John 1:9 (NIV)