

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What was your favorite Christmas gift to give/receive this year?

1. “The reality is everyone has dark days.” What causes your dark days, and how does Jesus brighten them?
2. **John 8:12** expresses how Jesus is the light of the world. What draws you to the light of Jesus when you are in the dark?
3. Pastor Tom highlights that “Jesus’ light can cleanse and purify us.” (**1 John 1:6-9**) Where do you need Jesus to be your rescuer? (**Ephesians 5:8-9**)
4. Pastor Tom shared that “Jesus’ light helps me make positive changes.” Review the passages from point #4 in your message notes. Do we actually believe this? How do our choices prove or disprove that belief?
5. The Bible shows us that God’s light and life go hand-in-hand. (**Psalms 36:9, John 8:12; 10:10; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 John 2:8**) How does living in the light of Christ bring life to your every day?

Day One: Mark 9

Day Two: Genesis 37

Day Three: 2 Corinthians 5

Day Four: 1 John 2

Day Five: Job 37

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE

Christmas at RIVERSIDE



“Light for Dark Days”

DEC 23-25, 2022 PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MYRC.CHURCH



"Light for Dark Days"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Isn't it interesting that the darkest time of year has the _____ lights?

Light is a _____ theme throughout the Bible (note [Genesis 1:3](#)).
Light is a prominent _____ of the first Christmas (note [John 1:4-5, 9](#)).

Note [John 12:46](#)

The reality is everyone has _____ (note [Ecclesiastes 11:8](#)).
How does Jesus' light help us in our dark days?

1. Jesus' Light _____ (note [Ephesians 5:13](#))

Light exposes, uncovers, _____, and it gives you a totally different perspective than when you're in the dark.

The journey is easier and the next steps are _____ the more light you have.

The _____ light? (note [John 8:12](#))

Our perspective is limited and our light is _____ (note [Isaiah 50:10](#); [Psalm 119:105](#)).

Stop looking for a _____ in the sky and look for the truth in the Scriptures (note [Psalm 19:8](#)).

Note [Isaiah 42:16](#) and [Psalm 23:4](#)

2. Jesus' Light _____

Jesus' light can cleanse and _____ us... (note [1 John 1:6-9](#)).

Jesus' light can help us experience a clean start instead of being saddled with guilt, shame, and _____.

Jesus came to be our Savior, to _____ us from sin and its devastating effects in our lives (note [Matthew 1:21](#); [2 Samuel 22:29](#); [Ephesians 5:8-9](#)).

3. Jesus' Light _____

When I'm in pain...Jesus' light is the _____
(note [Psalm 69:29](#); [103:3](#)).

Jesus' light frees us from those _____ that hold us in darkness (note [Colossians 1:12-13](#)).

4. Jesus' Light Helps Me Make _____ Changes

There are two main ways we change:

- When we _____ the light.
- When we _____ the heat.

Note [Ephesians 1:17-18](#)

God tells us that light and _____ are to go hand-in-hand (note [Psalm 36:9](#)).

The more you live in God's light, the more you'll _____ life (note [John 8:12](#); [10:10](#); [2 Corinthians 4:6](#); [1 John 2:8](#)).

So this Christmas season:

- When you try to live your life without Jesus at the _____ of your life, you live it in the dark.
- Are you ready to _____ your darkness/dark days for God's light?
- That's what Christmas is all about.
- Jesus came to _____ up your life.
- Jesus offers you the greatest Christmas gift you can ever receive - His light for your darkness; His forgiveness for your _____ and regret; and His life for your present, future, and eternity.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card in the chair pockets (or from an usher or digital* if watching online) and turn them in at the end of today's service.

*MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**

Merry Christmas!



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"Light for Dark Days"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Isn't it interesting that the darkest time of year has the brightest lights? Light is a prominent theme throughout the Bible (note [Genesis 1:3](#)). Light is a prominent aspect of the first Christmas (note [John 1:4-5, 9](#)).

Note [John 12:46](#)

The reality is everyone has dark days (note [Ecclesiastes 11:8](#)). How does Jesus' light help us in our dark days?

1. Jesus' Light Illuminates (note [Ephesians 5:13](#))

Light exposes, uncovers, clarifies, and it gives you a totally different perspective than when you're in the dark. The journey is easier and the next steps are clearer the more light you have. The best light? (note [John 8:12](#))

Our perspective is limited and our light is weak (note [Isaiah 50:10](#); [Psalm 119:105](#)).

Stop looking for a sign in the sky and look for the truth in the Scriptures (note [Psalm 19:8](#)).

Note [Isaiah 42:16](#) and [Psalm 23:4](#)

2. Jesus' Light Decontaminates

Jesus' light can cleanse and purify us... (note [1 John 1:6-9](#)). Jesus' light can help us experience a clean start instead of being saddled with guilt, shame, and regrets. Jesus came to be our Savior, to rescue us from sin and its devastating effects in our lives (note [Matthew 1:21](#); [2 Samuel 22:29](#); [Ephesians 5:8-9](#)).

3. Jesus' Light Heals

When I'm in pain...Jesus' light is the antidote (note [Psalm 69:29](#); [103:3](#)). Jesus' light frees us from those tentacles that hold us in darkness (note [Colossians 1:12-13](#)).

4. Jesus' Light Helps Me Make Positive Changes

There are two main ways we change:

- When we see the light.
- When we feel the heat.

Note [Ephesians 1:17-18](#)

God tells us that light and life are to go hand-in-hand (note [Psalm 36:9](#)). The more you live in God's light, the more you'll enjoy life (note [John 8:12](#); [10:10](#); [2 Corinthians 4:6](#); [1 John 2:8](#)).

So this Christmas season:

- When you try to live your life without Jesus at the center of your life, you live it in the dark.
- Are you ready to exchange your darkness/dark days for God's light?
- That's what Christmas is all about.
- Jesus came to light up your life.
- Jesus offers you the greatest Christmas gift you can ever receive - His light for your darkness; His forgiveness for your guilt and regret; and His life for your present, future, and eternity.

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