

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Light in Darkness

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December 5th, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite movie genre?

Reading: John 1:4-8

Outline:

- I. The Light Reveals (John 1:4)
 - a. "If ignorance and sin are darkness, knowledge and inspired life must be light." ~Gregory
 - b. Life is found in the Word of God, and the Word of God reveals us to us the light of life through Jesus.
Q: *Where is the darkness in your life?*
- II. The Light Casts Out Darkness (John 1:5)
 - a. Darkness, that which opposes God, cannot understand the light, let
 - b. alone defeat it. It is the nature of light to cast out darkness.
 - c. The self-sacrificial love of Jesus. The one who laid himself down in the face of the violence of our world is the hope and light of the world.
Q: *Are there places in your life where God has brought light to? Where?*
- III. Witnesses to the Light (John 1:6-8)
 - a. John's ministry is not finished. John witnessed to Jesus' first arrival, the Church lives as witness to the second.
 - b. We witness to Jesus in word and in action, because God is using us, empowered by the Spirit, to tell the world that the Light has come, and the darkness will not overcome it.
Q: *Where are you witnessing the light of God?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Darkness is all around us, where is your darkness? (spiritual, physical, emotional)
- 2) Do you have people around you who are living in darkness? Who?
- 3) How can you be a witness and light to the people around you and directly in your life?
- 4) Where is God bringing light to you? Where can you see him bringing light to others around you?
- 5) How can you further John's ministry?

Suggestions for further study:

- Psalm 119:105 **Q: *God provides us light for one step at a time, what next step is he lighting the way for you to go?***
- Psalm 36:9 **Q: *How can you remind yourself to go to God for the source of your life and not other things? What other things do you find yourself turning to instead of God?***
- John 3:30 **Q: *How can you walk in more humility this week?***

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, we believe that your light of Your son Jesus has come into the world to cast out our darkness. God, we ask that you continue to cast out the darkness in our lives, to overcome the sin and brokenness in each and every one of us. Lord, we ask that you continue to work through us as your people to be your lights in the world pointing to the greater light that has come for our forgiveness and redemption. We pray this all in your name. Amen