



Victory Life Group Practices of the Lamb

Series Details

Title

Light in the Darkness

Timing

December 6-December 27, 2020

Big Idea

It seems like darkness has taken over this year. Sickness, natural disasters, social unrest, politics, and more have dimmed our view of the world. We find ourselves wondering if it's worth hoping for normal to return or if peace is even possible.

But all is not lost. There is a light in the darkness. On the first Christmas, Jesus came into the world to live a perfect life and died an undeserved death so we could be free from the darkness of sin. Because darkness is defeated, we can live in the light of Christ, no matter our earthly circumstances.

Series Breakdown

December 6, 2020: The Need for The Light

When God first created the earth, everything was great ... until it wasn't. The world became a very dark place in a heartbeat. After humans fell into sin, God promised to send a rescuer into the darkness of sin. As we recognize our need for the light of Christ in our lives, we can rest on God's promises to save us from the darkness.

Read Genesis 3:1-5

- Describe a conversation that you should have never been a part of. How did you get into it? And why do you know you shouldn't have been a part of it?

Read John 8:44

- What does this tell us about Satan?
- Satan wants to engage us in conversation. And that is a dangerous place to be because he will tell half-truths and slant the truth. How did Satan do that with Adam and Eve?
- To which of Satan's temptations is our culture especially prone to listening?

Read Genesis 3:10-15

- Which two people does Adam blame? Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do? What was the like? Tell of a time when you were blamed or you a time when you blamed someone falsely.
- In the last two verses, the war against sin begins. And we have the first gospel promise. Who wins the war?

This week's practice:

Be sure to note who is talking to you. Memorize Genesis 3:15. Pray for yourself and your family and friends to not be influenced by the lies of Satan.

December 13, 2020: The Assurance of Light

Many of us are aware of God's promises for us, but we grow weary easily. We need assurances along the way to remind of that God is for us and loves us unconditionally. Throughout the Scriptures, God provides assurance with many prophecies of the coming light.

Read Isaiah 7:10-14

- Have you ever asked God for a sign? If so, what was the circumstance?
- Ahaz was in a tough spot. The enemies were on his doorstep. But he was going to take care of it himself. He had a plan. He didn't need or want God. When you are faced with tough times, do you rely on yourself? Others? God? What makes it difficult to trust God in tough times?
- Ahaz was feigning piety saying he wouldn't put God to the test. His response was not humility. It was a veneer which was hiding his unbelief. (Keep in mind Ahaz was an unbeliever. There is a difference between having no faith and having a weak faith). Share a time when you have "gone through the motions" but your heart wasn't really in the right place.
- **Important Point:** God is merciful. He gives a sign for Ahaz and all the world to see. A sign that only he could pull off: a virgin birth.

Read Matthew 1:23

- Note: This is the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14.
- When facing a tough time, how have you seen Jesus as Immanuel (God with us)?

This week's practice: Concentrate and demonstrate that God is with you in your thoughts, words, and actions. One of the ways you can do this is when you fail, remember that God's mercy never fails you.

December 19, 2020: Preparing for the Light

As the holidays grow close, we make preparations for meals, decorations, and gatherings. We also need to prepare our hearts. The light is coming, and as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we need to examine our hearts and recognize our deep need for a Savior.

Read Isaiah 40:1-11

- What is some exciting news that you have received? How did it impact your life?
- There are three different voices (or messages) in this section.
 - The first voice is in verses 3-5. It calls God's people to repentance and anticipation. What are you most anticipating about Christ this Christmas?
 - The second voice is in verse 6-8. It is also a call to repentance. Our glory and our success fade away but God and his word, his glory, stands forever. When we affirm our weakness it confirms God's glory. Following this pattern: How can you glorify God in your life today?
 - The third voice bring good news! God is going to protect and save his people. How are you comforted knowing that you are held in the good shepherds arms close to his heart?

This week's practice: What is the one thing you hope nobody asks you about? - This is what you need to repent of. God is not going to leave you alone to try and "get over it" by yourself. He is with you. Lean on him in your repentance because God is that good and loving.

The Light Has Come

December 24, 2020

The hope of the world has come. Jesus' birth meant that God's promises were fulfilled. The light came to earth to get rid of darkness. Jesus, the light of the world, is our sure and certain hope. We don't have to live in the darkness of our current circumstances; we can live in the light of Christ.

Read Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7 & John 8:12

- How has darkness revealed itself in our world this year?
- How has darkness revealed itself in your personal life this year? In your heart this year?
- Jesus is the Light of the world! How can you have joy in the darkness of your burdens?

This week's practice: Rejoice by shining the light of Jesus into the darkness places of your heart, your relationships, and the world.

Living By the Light

December 27, 2020

Darkness has vanished. Our lives are transformed by Jesus, who came to bring the world out of darkness and into the light of God's love. When we remember this and live by the light of Christ, how we view and interact with the people around us is impacted. We are inspired to share the light with all those who live in darkness.

- What did you get for Christmas? What did you give for Christmas?
- What is the difference between a gift given in love and one that is given by some other motivation?

Read John 3:16-21

- Many people are familiar with verse 16. Some are familiar with verse 17. But what in verses 19-21 stands out to you?
- Which of the following describes your openness to the light of God sheds on your life?
 - It's dark and I can't find a light
 - There is still a lot of me that wants to hide in the darkness
 - I want to leave the darkness but the light hurts my eyes
 - The more I follow the light, the brighter it becomes
 - I am completely open to God's light and grateful for it

Read Colossians 3:12-17

- It is common to receive and give clothes for Christmas. What do the clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience look like on you?
- Who besides you, needs the gifts that are listed in verse 13-15? How are you going to give him/her these gifts?

This week's practice: Wear your Christmas clothes and let your light shine in your home, your community, your social media community, and the world!