

Dec 15th, 2024 Christmas Lights – The Radiant Light – Luke 2:8-20
This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

What is the most unique or exclusive birth announcement you have ever seen? Now a days, there are gender reveals to announce a pregnancy. Sometimes there are some funny stories with these along with very unique stories as well!

Digging In

Question 1: Read Luke 2:8-20. There are 3 different times the phrase “glory of the Lord” happens in this passage. Pastor Jeff mentioned that when a passage repeats a theme or phrase, we should pay attention! He asked the question – Am I Glorifying the Lord? The first part of the story we focused on is the light (or glory) shown all around them (v.9)! The question becomes, when you experience the glory of God, he reveals to you your own darkness, and transfers you into His Light (**Colossians 1:13**).

Read 1 Peter 2:9

What does your life look like as it relates to living in the light? What changes have you seen God make in your life away from darkness?

Read **Ephesians 5:3-14** and **Galatians 5:19-21**. What kind of deeds are of darkness? Verse 8 talks about that transfer again from darkness to light.

Question 2: Read Luke 2:9-10. Once the angel of the Lord appeared, the shepherds were initially terrified (v.9). The angel of the Lord tells them to not be afraid because the good news will bring joy for ALL people (v. 10). The shepherds were afraid, but the Lord's messenger told them to NOT be afraid. Do you have this tug and pull between fear and joy in your life? When we fear in our lives, it is related to worry – both of which assume that we know how our life needs to go better than God does. Joy is trusting that God has our best interest no matter the circumstances!

Joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22**). Which means joy comes from the Spirit of God. How are these characteristics growing together in your life? (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, etc....)

Question 3: Read Luke 2:13-20. Once the shepherds had received this news, they went to check out if what had been told to them was true! They went to Bethlehem and saw Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. After that, their response was to go spread the news of what they had just heard and witnessed (v. 17). Why do you think our response often in our everyday lives isn't like that of the shepherds? Why do you think we are more apathetic about "spreading the news" than the shepherds were?

Are you living for God today or simply going through the motions? How does the Gospel remind you of what Christ has done on your behalf?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:16-18

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?

Am I glorifying God?

(3 questions to consider)

1. Am I still in darkness or in the light?

- 1 Peter 2:9 – But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Am I glorifying God?

(3 questions to consider)

1. Am I still in darkness or in the light?
2. Am I living in fear or with joy?
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Philippians 4:4

Am I glorifying God?

(3 questions to consider)

1. Am I still in darkness or in the light?
2. Am I living in fear or with joy?
3. Am I just going through the motions or truly living for God?
 - 2 Cor. 3:18 / 1 Cor. 10:31

