

Light of The World

As we enter the holiday season, how do we have Peace, Hope, and Joy in the Midst of pain, loss, and missed expectations?

In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good and God separated the light from the darkness."

Genesis 1: 1-4

The Darkness doesn't go away, but God speaks Light _____ the darkness.

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

²He was with God in the beginning.

³All things were created through Him,
and apart from Him not one thing was created
that has been created.

⁴Life was in Him,
and that life was the light of men.

⁵That light shines in the darkness,
yet the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1 reveals _____ to be the Light referred to in Genesis 1.

Our response:

1. Put God first in every part Christmas.
2. Trust in Jesus. He is the light that leads us through the darkness of this world.

3. Jesus commands us to go and be others focused, and be light to others.

What does your heart cherish as Most Wonderful?

Home Group Study.

The Message was about : The Christmas season is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. But for many people, it's complicated. It's a time of year that surfaces tensions in relationships, unmet expectations, and the pain of absent loved ones. How do we have Peace, Hope, & Joy in the midst of Pain, Loss and Missed Expectations?

1. Talk about your favourite Christmas tradition from your family of origin. What did you like about it?
2. Why is Light a good imagery for Jesus?
3. What are some things that distract you from God during the Christmas season? Why do you think it's so easy for us to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas?
4. Is it difficult for you to believe that Jesus' light can overcome darkness in your life? Why or why not?
5. What are some things complicating this Christmas season for you? How would your stress be reduced if you rested in what Jesus has already done vs, focusing on what you should do?
6. If God knows what we need before we ask, How could your prayer life look different this week if your focus was on praise and adoration rather than petition?
7. What are some creative ideas on how we can love our neighbours (those in, and out with our church) this week?