

Our  
GOD  
Who is...

LIGHT  
OF THE  
WORLD



**The Women's Ministry at Grace exists to cultivate opportunities for women to make authentic connections with one another and experience sound biblical teaching to equip them to love each other well and to live life for Christ.**

**For the 2022-2023 ministry year, we are exploring who God is through studying what Scripture reveals to us about Father, Son and Spirit. Today, we gather together to celebrate what it means the Jesus is the light of the world.**

**We would like to invite you to mark your calendar for March 24th-25th, 2023. That weekend, we will host our in-house retreat, which will offer an opportunity to learn and reflect on the powerful role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

**If you would like to be in touch with someone from Women's Ministry, you can reach us at [women@gracecomm.org](mailto:women@gracecomm.org)**

## **Additional Opportunities to Connect at Grace this Holiday Season**

- **We have digital copies of our Advent devotional available online. This is the devotional we are using together as a church family to enter into the holiday season with marvel and wonder and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our savior.**
- **On December 9th, 5:00pm-7:30pm, we are hosting a Grace Family Night with a live nativity, kid's craft, hayrides, and other fun and festive activities.**
- **Several life-stage specific holiday parties will be held in December, including one for seniors 55+ (December 10th) and one for middle and high school youth (December 18th).**
- **On Christmas Eve, we will have family-friendly services at both 4:00pm and 5:30pm.**

**For more information on any of these events, visit the  
Connect tab at [www.gracecomm.org](http://www.gracecomm.org)**

## Event Schedule

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 2:45pm        | Doors Open  |
| 3:00pm-3:40pm | Food and Fellowship                               |
| 3:40pm-3:55pm | Opening prayer, Group Discussion<br>(see page 5)  |
| 3:55pm-4:10pm | Worship   |
| 4:10pm-4:40pm | Teaching—Our God Who is the<br>Light of the World |
| 4:40pm-4:45pm | Special Music                                     |
| 4:45pm-5:00pm | Break   |
| 5:00pm-5:45pm | Group Discussion (see page 14)                    |
| 5:45pm-5:55pm | Worship   |
| 5:55pm-6:00pm | Final Prayer                                      |

## Our God Who Is Light of the World

### Opening Questions:

We use lights as a major component of how we decorate for the Christmas season.

What response do you have when you see the first holiday lights of the season?

What symbolic meaning do you associate with lights at Christmastime?

## Teaching Notes:

### In the beginning, there was light...

Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

## **The first lantern: A Pillar of Fire**

Exodus 13:21-22

By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

## **The Second Lantern: A Covenant with David**

2 Chronicles 21:7

Nevertheless, because of the covenant the Lord had made with David, the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David. He had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendants forever.



## **The Third Lantern: Prophetic Promises**

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has  
dawned.

Isaiah 49:6

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore  
the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have  
kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my  
salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

## “I’ve Brought You The Moon...”

Luke 2: 29-32

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

John 1:1-5, 9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

## **“I’ve Brought You The Moon...”**

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

## **“...And All the Twinkly Stars”**

Philippians 2:15

Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.

## **Light for Eternity**

Revelation 21:23

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Revelation 22:5

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

## Discussion Questions

1. Knowing now how light is discussed in Scripture, how has your understanding of what it means to decorate with lights at Christmas developed or changed?
2. Why is it important that Jesus is the ultimate source of *both* salvation and guidance?
3. How does knowing that the Bible tells one coherent story with Jesus as the center influence how you approach the study of Scripture?
4. What does the analogy of Christians shining like stars in the sky mean for how we approach our everyday lives?
5. How is our ability to have hope and joy linked to the promise of eternal light found in Revelation?

**Thank you for joining us to celebrate together the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the light of the world!**

**Our prayer is that the light of Christ will be a tangible reality for you throughout this holiday season.**

**The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
The LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.  
-Numbers 6:24-26**

***Can't You Sleep Little Bear (1988)*  
Written by Martin Waddell  
Illustrated by Barbara Firth**

