ADVENT SERIES: THE TRUE LIGHT – PART 1

HOPE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the **true light** that existed before all things, enters our darkest places with purpose, and overcomes fear, sin, and death—giving us unshakable hope.

THEME

In a world full of competing "lights," Advent calls us to **rediscover, receive, and follow the true light of Christ**.

FOUNDATION TEXT

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light…" — Isaiah 9:2–7

I. DISCERNING THE TRUE LIGHT

"There are many things that look like light… but are not the light."

Scripture:

- **John 1:9**
- **2 Corinthians 11:14**

Teaching:

In today's world:

- Culture offers "truth"
- Media shapes beliefs
- People construct their own spirituality

But not all light is truth.

Theological Insight:

False light:

- Illuminates temporarily
- Centers on self
- Leads to confusion

True light (Christ):

- Reveals truth
- Leads to life
- Transforms the heart

Key Insight:

Not everything that shines is from God.

Application:

- What "false lights" are influencing your life?
- Where are you substituting truth with convenience?

II. ADVENT: A SEASON OF PREPARATION

"Advent is a journey of drawing closer to God."

Teaching:

Advent is about:

- Reflection
- Repentance
- Renewal
- Readiness

Spiritual Practices:

- Prayer
- Fasting
- Generosity
- Serving

Illustration:

Advent is like **remodeling your heart**:

- Removing clutter
- Clearing distractions
- Making room for Christ

Key Insight:

You cannot fully receive Christ if your heart is already full.

Application:

- What needs to be removed from your life this season?
- What space are you creating for Christ?

III. HOPE BECAUSE JESUS EXISTED BEFORE THE DARKNESS

"If Jesus was there before the darkness… He will outlast it."

Scripture:

- **John 1:1–2**
- **Colossians 1:16–17**
- **Genesis 1:3**

Teaching:

Jesus:

- Was present at creation
- Created light itself
- Sustains all things

Theological Insight:

Darkness is not eternal—Christ is.

Key Insight:

What existed before your problem will outlast your problem.

Application:

- What darkness are you facing right now?
- Can you trust that Jesus is greater than it?

IV. JESUS ENTERS DARKNESS WITH PURPOSE

"Jesus comes into darkness intentionally—not randomly."

Scripture:

- **John 1:5**
- **Isaiah 9:2**

Biblical Examples:

Jesus entered:

- The demoniac's torment (Mark 5)
- The blind man's darkness
- The woman at the well's shame
- The disciples' fear

Teaching:

Darkness is not:

- A prison
- A dead end

It is:

- A place of visitation
- A place of transformation

Key Insight:

Your darkest place is often where God does His deepest work.

Application:

- Where do you feel trapped?
- Can you see your situation as a place God is entering?

V. LIGHT DESTROYS FEAR, SIN, AND DEATH

"The light breaks the power of death and fear."

Scripture:

- **Hebrews 2:14–15**
- **1 John 3:8**

Teaching:

The light of Christ:

- Breaks fear
- Destroys sin
- Defeats death

Theological Insight:

The resurrection is the **ultimate victory of light over darkness**.

Key Insight:

You don't have to fear death—or life—when you walk in the light.

Application:

- What fear is controlling you right now?
- How does Christ's victory change your perspective?

VI. THE DANGER OF SELF-MADE LIGHT

"When we become our own light… we drift away from Christ."

Teaching:

Self-made light leads to:

- Control
- Anxiety
- Sin

Key Insight:

When you lead your life, you lose your way.

Application:

- Where are you relying on your own strength instead of God's?

VII. THE LIGHT BREAKS CHAINS AND RESTORES LIFE

Teaching:

Christ's light:

- Breaks addiction
- Heals shame
- Restores identity

Key Insight:

There is no darkness too strong for the light of Christ.

Application:

- What chains need to be broken in your life?

VIII. A DELIBERATE DECISION TO FOLLOW THE LIGHT

"Allowing Christ to illuminate your life is a choice."

Teaching:

Following Christ requires:

- Surrender
- Obedience
- Daily decision

Key Insight:

Light is available—but it must be received.

Application:

- What step do you need to take to follow Christ more fully?

IX. TURN OFF COMPETING LIGHTS

"Turn off the lights competing with Christ."

Teaching:

Competing lights:

- Culture
- Comfort
- Control
- Distraction

Key Insight:

The light of Christ shines brightest when everything else is dimmed.

Application:

- What do you need to "unplug" this Advent?

X. THE LIGHT MUST BE SHARED

Teaching:

The light:

- Comes to you
- Works in you
- Flows through you

Scripture:

- **Matthew 5:16**

Key Insight:

The light you receive is meant to be given.

Application:

- Who needs to experience Christ's light through you?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What "false lights" have influenced your life?
2. What darkness are you currently facing?
3. How have you seen Christ bring hope in difficult seasons?
4. What fears do you need to surrender?
5. What competing "lights" do you need to turn off?
6. Who can you share Christ's light with this week?