

There Is More to the Story: A Light Has Shined
December 3, 2023

Introduction:

Text: Isaiah 8:19-9:1-2; John 8:12

Big Idea: Darkness in our world is real and it's proven mankind can't defeat it...**But God has a plan!**

#1-There is _____ in the world (Isaiah 8:19-22)

- How is the world "dark"?
- In the Bible the word "darkness" refers to
 - _____
 - _____

#2- The _____ that entered the darkness was sent from God (Isaiah 9:1-2)

- The light from God is meant to _____ from the darkness of gloom.
- The light from God is meant to moves us from darkness of gloom to the _____.

#3- The light that entered the darkness was _____ (Isaiah 9:6, John 1:5-13; 8:12)

- Light in the Gospel of John
 - The word "light" is used 24 times in John's gospel.
 - John 1:9: "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world."
- Wilderness Metaphors
 - John 6 - _____ **of Life** no more hungering
 - John 7 - _____ **of Life** no more thirsting
 - John 8 - _____ **of Life** no more walking in darkness

Truths to Live By:

- Do you find yourself always trying to be in control and yet feeling empty, even angry? That's a sign you need God's light. **Surrender to the light and stop your angry fights.**
- We can't find the light on our own, so the light comes to us. **Why do you insist on doing life your way? The LIGHT has come. Let Jesus lead you through your dark.**
- What will you do with Jesus, the light of the world? **Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." LIVE YOUR LIFE BY WALKING IN THE LIGHT!**

Connect Card:

- **Is there more darkness or light in your life today?**
- **How can we pray for you?**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

(A guide to be used to grow as a disciple of Jesus by yourself, as a family or small groups)

WARM UP: What is your favorite part of the Christmas celebration?

What is the spiritual state of God's people when this prophecy is given in Isaiah 9?

What does it mean to be in a state of darkness? What is the darkness in Isaiah 8 & 9?

What ways do we typically try to get out of the darkness?

How did God send light into our world?

PRAYER: Thank God for acting on your behalf to shatter the yoke of oppression through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Invite him to show you how to live joyfully this week, in absolute gratitude.