

Bible study for the week starting January 8, 2023

SHARE

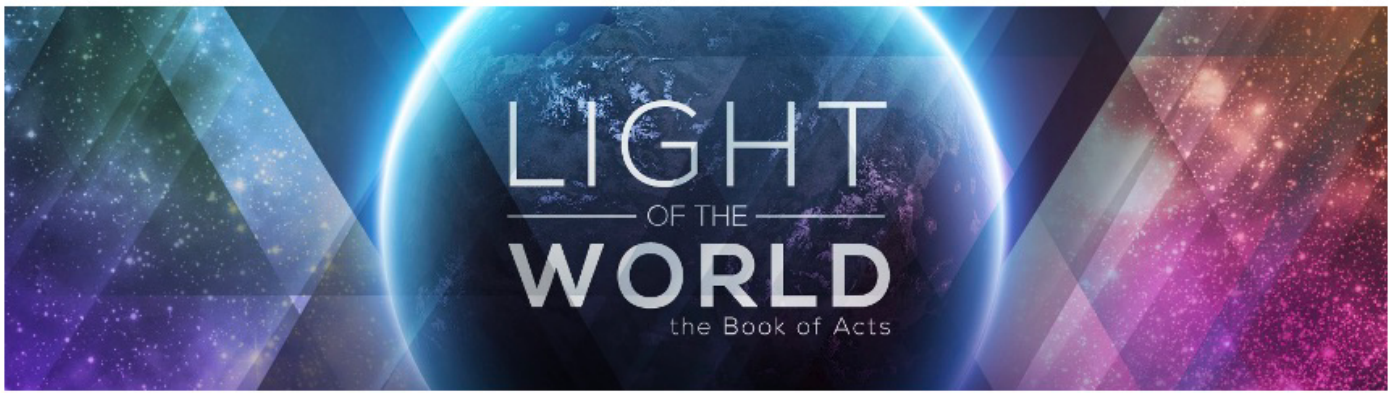
Epiphany marks a day in the church year that we celebrate that God's gift of salvation is for the WHOLE WORLD. If you could share one 30 second message with the whole world...what would you say? When did you learn/ hear of God's grace for you? Who did you hear it from? How has this truth shaped your life?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read this promise throughout scripture...it was not new for the wisemen in **Matthew**...or the gentiles in **Acts**. Look at **Gen 12:1-3**. What peoples would be blessed?
2. Read **Isaiah 49:6**. How does this verse strike you? Read **Ephesians 3:6**. How does this verse strike you?
3. Read **Acts 15:22-23**
 - a. Who did they choose to send to Antioch? Why?
4. Read **ACTS 15:24-29**
 - a. What confirmed the letter? (v.28) If you were to write a letter to the church what would you say is a requirement for community?
5. Read **ACTS 15:30-35**
 - a. How did they respond to this letter? How would you respond after hearing this letter.
6. Read **ACTS 15:36-41**
 - a. Even unity in the church can have disagreement. Have you ever parted ways because of a disagreement?

PRAY

Pray for unity in the church and in our relationships. Pray that we might be a light in the world and bear each other's burdens.



Acts 15:22-41 "Not a Burden"

January 8, 2023 – Pastor Ben Schrank

*"You are the **LIGHT** of the world." - Matt 5:14*

*Epiphany- an **ILLUMINATING** discovery, realization, or disclosure.*

*"It seemed good to the **HOLY SPIRIT** and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements." Acts 15:28*

- 1) Holy Spirit desires **UNITY**.
- 2) Unity does not mean **UNIFORMITY**.
- 3) Unity often requires **SACRIFICE**.

*The Church is the Church only when it exists **FOR OTHERS**...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

*Let this year be the year of "**YOUR NEIGHBOR**"*

*"Come to me all you who are **WEARY** and burdened, and I will give you rest...*

*...For my yoke is easy and my **BURDEN** is light." Matt 11:28, 30 NIV*

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the **LAW OF CHRIST**." Gal. 6:2*

For next week read Acts 16:1-15