

Study Guide: December 14, 2025

Advent 2025 – The Grand Miracle

John 1:9–13

Study Guide & Discussion Questions

Opening Reflection

John tells the Christmas story not with shepherds and angels, but with light, darkness, rejection, and rescue. This passage invites us to see Christmas as more than a sweet story—it is a grand miracle of grace.

Read together: John 1:9–13

1. Setting the Scene: The Light Has Come

Read: John 1:1–5

1. How does John describe Jesus before He ever comes into the world?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus is described as both life and light?
3. What does it mean that “the darkness has not overcome it”?
4. Where do you see darkness and light clashing in today’s culture—or in your own life?

2. The Tragic Tale: Rejected Light

Read: John 1:9–11

1. What does John mean when he says Jesus is the “true light” that came into the world?
2. How does John move from the world not knowing Him to His own not receiving Him?
3. Why do you think rejection increases the closer Jesus comes to His own people?
4. What stands out to you about the Greek contrast between:
 - *katalambano* (darkness cannot overcome the light)
 - *paralambano* (His own did not receive Him)?
5. How can something so powerful be rejected so personally?

3. The Tragic Tale Repeated

Read: Isaiah 53:3, 5–6

1. How does Isaiah 53 echo what John describes in verses 10–11?

2. In what ways does the phrase “we have turned—every one—to his own way” still describe humanity today?
3. Where do you see this tragic pattern repeated:
 - In Scripture?
 - In church history?
 - In modern culture?
 - In yourself?

4. Personal Reflection: Where Do I Fit?

1. In what ways do people today try to maintain a “peaceful coexistence” with God rather than true surrender?
2. Are there areas of your life where you acknowledge God’s presence but resist His authority?
3. What are some “false lights” (temporary hopes or distractions) people use instead of the true Light?

5. The Terrific Truth: Grace That Rescues

Read: John 1:12–13

1. What promises are given to those who receive Christ?
2. According to verse 13, what does not make someone a child of God?
3. Who is ultimately responsible for someone becoming a child of God?
4. Why is it important that salvation is described as an act of God rather than human achievement?

6. Dead to Alive: God’s Initiative

Read: Ephesians 2:1–10

1. How does Paul describe our condition apart from Christ?
2. What words describe God’s action toward us in verses 4–5?
3. How does this passage help explain the tension between human responsibility and God’s sovereignty?
4. Why is it good news that God does not wait for us to rescue ourselves?

7. The Greater Miracle

1. Which feels more miraculous to you—and why?
 - God offering salvation and hoping we respond
 - God entering our darkness and rescuing us despite our rejection
2. How does the “life buoy” illustration help clarify the gospel?
3. How does this passage reshape how you think about grace?

8. Identity and Hope

Read: John 1:12 again

1. What does it mean to be called a “child of God”?
2. How does knowing you’ve been named by your Creator shape your identity?
3. How should this truth affect the way Christians live, worship, and witness?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Have you personally experienced God’s grace in the middle of your own tragic tale?
- Are you resting in your identity as a child of God—or still striving to earn it?
- Ask God to help you see Christmas not as sentiment, but as rescue.

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord, thank You for coming into our darkness, not waiting for us to find You, but rescuing us by Your grace. Help us live as grateful children of the Light. Amen.”