

December 7, 2025

Advent Study Guide – Week 2

The Grand Miracle – John 1:4-5

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Theme: Life & Light in the Grand Miracle

The Christmas story is not a last-minute reaction to human sin—Scripture reveals it to be a **designed plan of God**, a miraculous descent into our darkness to bring life, light, and love.

As C.S. Lewis illustrates, Christ is like a diver—leaving the heights of glory to plunge into the cold depths of our brokenness, not by accident, but **to retrieve the dripping prize—the human soul.**

1. The Intensity of the Text

John 1 reveals a crescendo of meaning:

- **Life (zoe)** – not merely existence, but spiritual, eternal, God-breathed life.
- **Light (phos)** – revelation, salvation, transformation.
- **Darkness** – ignorance of God, rebellion, hopelessness.
- **The miracle** – *darkness cannot overcome or comprehend the light.*

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. When you think of *“In Him was life,”* what images or feelings come to mind?
2. How does understanding zoe as eternal, spiritual life change the way you view Jesus' birth?
3. Why do you think John pairs *life* and *light* together? What does one reveal about the other?
4. Where do you see darkness in the world? Where do you see it in yourself?
5. Why is it significant that darkness **cannot** overcome the light? How does that strengthen your faith?

2. The Intention of the Text

From shepherds in the night to wise men guided by a star to exiles in Isaiah's day—God shines light into the darkest places with one message: **Do not fear.**

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think *fear not* is such a repeated phrase in the Christmas story?
2. What situations currently bring fear, anxiety, or heaviness into your life?
3. How does the truth that Jesus *is the Light* speak into your personal darkness?
4. Consider the shepherds and wise men: How did the light lead them to Jesus?
How has God led you in seasons you didn't understand?

5. If Jesus has already overcome the darkness, what does it look like for you to walk in that truth?

3. Know That You Are Loved

The Grand Miracle is not merely rescue—it is **love**.

A God who sees the millisecond-long life of fragile humanity and still descends for us shows a love beyond measurement.

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. Do you tend to think of God as reactionary or intentional? Why does it matter?
2. What stands out to you about Mary treasuring and pondering God's work in her heart?
3. In what ways has God shown you love—even when you didn't feel deserving?
4. Read John 3:16. How does it amplify John 1:4-5?
5. What would change if you believed—fully—that you are deeply and intentionally loved by God?

4. Remember the Miracle

Communion is an act of remembering—not only His death and resurrection, but His **coming**.

We remember the diver who descended into darkness, emerged victorious, and lifted humanity with Him.

Reflection & Application

1. What does remembering do for your faith when life grows heavy or dark?
2. What moment of God's faithfulness do you need to call to mind this season?
3. What spiritual “false lights” do you often substitute for the true Light?
4. How might you practice intentional remembering this Advent (journaling, prayer, Scripture, communion, worship, conversation)?
5. Spend time praying:

Lord, show me again Your life & light. Help me remember the Grand Miracle.