

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Why We Like Christmas Lights

With Jeremy Vasic
Multiplication and Mobilization Catalyst
December 1, 2019



Why do we enjoy lights during Christmas?

"The world is a dark place, and we will never find our way or see reality unless Jesus is our Light." Tim Keller - Hidden Christmas.

- **Humanity can't save itself.**

"Christianity does not agree with the optimistic thinkers who say 'we can fix things if we try hard enough'... nor the pessimists who only see a dystopian future. The message of Christianity is, instead, 'Things are really bad, and we can't heal or save ourselves. Things are really this dark - nevertheless there is hope.'" Tim Keller

Isaiah 9:2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

- **True Light reveals truth.**

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶ So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. ⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

- **True Light brings life.**

John 1:4-5 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 8:12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

- **True Light fosters joy.**

Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

- **True Light has come in the form of a child.**

Big Idea: Step out of spiritual darkness and walk in the True Light to experience truth, life, and joy.

- **We are called into the True Light.**



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Why We Like Christmas Lights
#1 of 5 - Dec. 1, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) What is your favourite part about the Christmas season? In what way is this a joyful time and/or a challenging time for you?

4) Read Isaiah 9:2. Reflect on a time when you were walking in darkness. Was there a way that light shone into your situation, and how did this change things?

5) Read 1 John 1:5-7. How has God revealed truth to you in your life? What step can you take to live in God's truth today?

6) Read John 8:12. What does it look like for us to experience the life that Jesus talks about in this passage? In what ways are you experiencing this life, or not experiencing it? How can you allow the light of Jesus to bring you life today?

7) Read Isaiah 9:6-7. The Messiah is described with four titles in this passage: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Which of these titles given to Jesus do you take the most comfort in? What aspect of Jesus's attributes do you need most in your life right now?

8) Do you believe that God has called you out of spiritual darkness? What "step" are you choosing to take in your life in order to walk from darkness and into light with Jesus?

9) In what way can you share this truth, life, and joy to those around you this Christmas season as an individual, family, and Impact Community?



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