

## Luke 2.1-7 NIV

Dark Nights are often doorways to new beginnings.

A lot of great things came out of long night in Scripture

- A blessing we all have is the Abrahamic blessing in Genesis 15. At night God visited Abraham
- Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane at night.
- Passover was at night
- Jesus walked on water in the middle of the night

### 1. Jacob wrestled with God all Night

*“So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”” (Genesis 32:24–30, NIV)*

### 2. Samuel heard God’s call at night“

*The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground.”*

(1 Samuel 3:19, NIV)

### 3. Mary and Joseph and the night In Bethlehem

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### 4. Our dark Nights

St. John of the cross wrote a book “Dark Night of the Soul” around 1578. The book is about a deeply profound spiritual crisis we all face in our lives. We feel abandoned by God, experience emptiness, lose the meaning and desire for life, but this is not just to send us down, but a necessary purification process to shed our ego, attachments to this world and to pull us in to a deeper union with God.

- Feeling cut off from God, inspiration, and joy.
- A profound sense of inner emptiness and desolation.
- Motivation for spiritual practices vanishes, but a deeper pull remains.

- It can be triggered by major life events (loss, disaster) or occur spontaneously as part of spiritual growth.

During these dark nights, people can make terrible decisions to try to change their life and relationships but we need to look deep within and allow the work of God to happen in our souls.

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That the darkness of the world would be overcome by Christ's Light, showing the true way to God, and out of the darkness.

*"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:4–5, NIV)