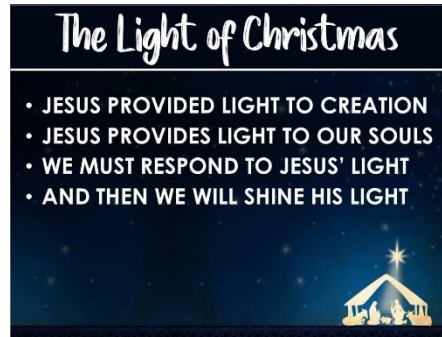


The Light of Christmas

December 1, 2019 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



Questions:

1. Do you remember a time (maybe as a child) when you struggled with being afraid of the dark? What helped you in those moments? Share with your group.
2. What fears do you now face as an adult?
3. Read Psalm 27:1-3. What do you think David meant that the Lord was his light? How did this give him confidence?
4. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). What in the sermon challenged you? Do you have any questions to bring up?
5. Read Acts 9:1-9. This is the story of the conversion of Saul (later to be known as Paul the apostle).
 - a) Why do you think Jesus appeared to Saul with a bright light?
 - b) Why do you think the Lord arranged for Saul to be blind for three days? Do you think there might have been a message for him in this?
 - c) Now read Acts 9:10-20. What stands out to you in this part of the story?
 - d) Did Saul see anything while he was blind? (see v. 12). How is this significant?
 - e) What had he been busy doing? (see v. 11). What lesson might there be to us in this?
 - f) Paul later gave some more details about his experience on the road to Damascus. Read Acts 26:16-18. What was Jesus sending him to do? How did this mission relate to Paul's own conversion experience?
6. Read 2 Kings 6:13-23.
 - a) Why was Elisha's servant afraid?
 - b) How did Elisha pray and what was the result?
 - c) There is a theme of blindness in this story. Why do you think that is?
 - d) How did Elisha treat his enemies?
 - e) In what areas do you need to have your eyes opened to God's presence and power? What should you do?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-7.
 - a) Who is the "god of this age"? (see Ephesians 2:1-2, Ephesians 6:12, and 1 John 5:19)
 - b) What has he done to the minds of unbelievers? Why?
 - c) How does this make you feel?
 - d) What can be done to help open the eyes of the spiritually blind?
8. Read Matthew 7:1-5
 - a) What keeps us from seeing clearly to fix other people's issues?
 - b) What can be done about this problem? (also see Psalm 139:23-24)
9. Share prayer requests and pray together. Pray that your spiritual eyes would be opened.