

A LIGHT SHINING IN DARKNESS

Isaiah 9:2-3

Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

Matthew 5:14-16

Revelation 22:1-5

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Why is light attractive? Why is darkness scary?
- If someone asked you what the significance of light is in the Bible, how would you respond?

There is a stark contrast between light and dark. The biblical writers use these clearly differentiated images to powerfully illustrate the difference between what Jesus Christ the Messiah offers us and what the world offers. Studying and exploring the biblical promises connected to light help us understand Christ, his work, and what it means for us and how we live as his disciples (or people of the light) while we wait for his second coming.

Listen: [*A Light Shining in Darkness*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee explore some of the Old Testament prophecies about light and point to the events of Jesus' life that fulfill those prophecies. What does it show you about God that he us these promises and fulfilled them?
- Consider how you've chosen to live your daily life. How are you reflecting the light of Christ? How might your witness lead others to glorify God?
- In segment 3, Scott discusses two ways we let the light of Christ shine through us. The second way, using our light to expose someone's need for Christ, is often trickier for us than the first way, being a good example or bringing Christ's light to people's despair. Why? How can we walk that fine line of exposing someone's need for Christ's light without judging or shaming them?
- Who do you know that embodies the light of Christ well in their words and actions? Identify a few examples of how you've seen Christ's light shining through their life. How might you similarly shine the light of Christ this week?

Related Passages

- **Luke 2:1-20**

- **Matthew 2:1-12**
- **Luke 1:76-79**
- **John 1:1-9**
- **John 9:39-41**
- **John 3:19-21**
- **John 8:12**
- **Ephesians 5:8-16**
- **Isaiah 49:6**
- **Acts 13:47**

Conclusion

Begin a time of reflection with this prayer from Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer by Kari Kristina Reeves (p. 119).

What is it in my heart?

I need your assistance.

*Give me your light.
Give me your Spirit.*

Help me, please,

For your name.

*Help me, my Father,
Because you are my friend.*

Amen.

Next, spend time in continued prayer and reflection on these questions:

- Is there any part of your life that you're trying not to expose to the light or willfully keeping hidden?
- Where do you see a need for the light of Christ around you? How can you meet that need?

Pray about the answers the Holy Spirit rouses in your heart and mind, then close your time of prayer and reflection with this prayer, also from Canyon Road (p. 84):

Be my Light, God, in this darkness.

Shine brightly here, for your name's sake.

Amen.
