

D E C E M B E R 1

Light and



GLORY

Light to See
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SENIOR PASTOR

Introduction

Pastor John kicked off Week One of our Advent series, *Light and Glory*, by exploring the story of Simeon in Luke 2. Simeon blessed Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and he marveled at Jesus. What was he so amazed and excited about? Through the birth of Jesus, light was brought into the world. Because of the light of Jesus, we can finally see God clearly, and we can finally have hope.

Discussion

1. **Read Isaiah 9:2 and 9:6-7.** Why is light a great metaphor for hope? Why is it so fitting that we think of Jesus as the Light of the World?
2. **Read Luke 2:22-32.** Observe Simeon. How do you want to be like him as you grow older? Why did Simeon feel he could die in peace?
3. Pastor John named some common lies people believe. Discuss how the Gospel of Luke sheds the light of Jesus on these misbeliefs. Do you see anyone in your Little Iowa believing these?
My past is too sinful. The devil is too strong. My life is meaningless.
4. **Read John 1:18, John 14:9 and 2 Corinthians 4:6.** At Jesus's death, He tore the curtain in two, giving us full access to God. At His birth, he tore through the darkness so we could see God the Father. How does this affect our relationship with God the Father? With Jesus? With each other?

Do Something

1. Pastor John discussed how we can view Christmas lights as a reminder of the light and hope Jesus brought into the world. Make a commitment to reflect on Jesus each time you see Christmas lights this week.
2. Read Luke 2 a few times throughout this week. Each time, ask God to open your eyes and heart so that you will be ready to learn and reflect on what God wants you to see.
3. Commit to being invitational this week and during the entire Advent season. Who in your life needs to meet Jesus, the light and hope of the world? Ask God to give you opportunities to invite a friend to church or engage in a conversation about Advent.

Resources

1. [*Hidden Christmas*](#) by Timothy Keller (Penguin Books, 2018). Find this book on Amazon or other booksellers, and use it as a guide to help you reflect on Jesus' birth narratives.
2. [*O Hear the Angel Voices*](#) 2018 Advent sermon series by Prairie Lakes Church.
3. [*Advent: He Keeps His Promises*](#) by Matt Chandler on RightNow Media. Watch these video sessions as a group or individually for more teaching on what Christmas means for believers.