

DECEMBER 22

Light and GLORY

A Part of the Family

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Introduction

In the last week of our Advent series, *Light and Glory*, Pastor Jesse shares about Simeon's prayer in Luke 2:29-32 and how we are all a part of the story – and family – of God. Simeon's prayer brought the promises of God to the entire world, bridging the gap between the Jews and the Gentiles and aligning the ministry God had planned for Jesus and His followers through the generations to follow. The true meaning of Christmas is Jesus – God coming down from Heaven to earth – to invite everyone to be a part of His family. Jesus is our light, and He is our glory!

Discussion

1. Have you ever felt like you were on the "outside looking in" with family or work situations? How did it make you feel? What did you do or say in that situation? Discuss how this relates to the situation between the Gentiles and the Jews.
2. **Read Ephesians 2:1-5.** According to these verses, what does it mean to be "dead in sin" and "alive in Christ"? Describe the time in your life when you first understood what these verses meant. If you are struggling to understand, share what is troubling or confusing you about these verses. Take time to pray with and for each other.
3. **Read Ephesians 2:17-22.** Explain what you think it means to be "members of God's household" and "being built together to become a dwelling for God." How does this involve the family of God, the Church? Discuss what it means to be a member of God's Church and where you see yourself fitting into the family of God.
4. Discuss your favorite inspirational (Christ-centered) Christmas song. What attracts you to this song? What images/feelings do you have when you sing it? How does it affect your relationship with God and His family?

Do Something

1. **Reread the Christmas story in Luke 1-2 and Matthew 1.** Write down one verse that sticks out to you and put it in a place where you can see it daily. Let this be a reminder to you of what God did when He sent His Son at Christmas.
2. People all around us feel like they are on the "outside looking in." Pray about whom God would want you to connect with to begin the journey of stepping over the Faith Line and welcoming the family of God into their lives. Be sensitive to the Spirit's prompting, yet willing to take uncomfortable steps.
3. Discuss with your group or your family how you can invest in a ministry that reaches the lost and broken. If you need guidance finding a place to invest, go to prairielakeschurch.org, find your campus page and scroll to the bottom for a list of our local ministry partners and how you can contribute your time and talents to their mission.

Resources

1. In *Heaven Come to Earth* on [RightNow Media](#), Pastor Pete Briscoe uses classic Christmas carols to tell the story of Christ's arrival and mission.
2. Focus on the true meaning of Christmas! The musical video journey *Seeds of Christmas* on [RightNow Media](#) will take your family through the prophecies in Isaiah and Micah to the incredible accounts of Jesus's miraculous birth in Matthew and Luke.
3. A wonderful children's movie about the birth of Jesus as well as forgiveness and healing is *The Star*, available on [Amazon Prime](#).