



Sermon Discussion Guide

Dec. 21-24, 2024

“Let It Shine!”

[Luke 2:1-7](#)

This Advent season, the “Joy to the World” sermon series has invited us to rediscover the deep and abiding joy found in the promises of God. As we navigated the challenges of waiting, longing, and hope, we’ve reflected on the transformative power of Christ’s coming—past, present, and future. Join us as we celebrate the Savior who brings true joy to the world.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [HopeOnline.tv](#). Did you have any “ah-ha” moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What’s been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Luke 1:78-79](#) – “Zechariah’s Prophecy”

- How does the imagery of “light breaking upon us” speak to our personal experiences of darkness? How does it resonate with the challenges you face today?
- Why is it significant that this prophecy connects light with salvation? How does this deepen your understanding of Jesus’ purpose?
- In what ways can you shine God’s light in your community this Christmas? What actions can you take to bring hope to others?
- Reflect on a moment when you felt God’s light break through your personal darkness. How did it change you?

Read [John 1:4-5](#) – “The Word Became Flesh”

- How does the idea of Jesus being the inextinguishable light bring comfort to you during challenging times?
- What does it mean that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it”? How does this contrast with temporary lights we pursue?
- How can you reflect Jesus’ light in your relationships this week, even in moments of tension or difficulty?
- Share an example of when you experienced Jesus as light in a dark situation. How can you share that story with others this season?

Read [Matthew 2:1-12](#) – “Visitors from the East”

- Why do you think the Magi were willing to leave everything to follow the star? What does their journey teach us about seeking Jesus?
- How does the star in the Christmas story symbolize hope and guidance for us today? What “stars” in your life point you toward Jesus?
- How can you demonstrate the same devotion and worship as the Magi in your everyday life? What practices can help you keep Jesus at the center?
- Think about the “journey” you’re currently on in your faith. What steps can you take to seek Jesus more intentionally this Christmas?

Read [Luke 2:1-7 & 8-20](#) – “The Birth of Jesus” & “The Shepherds and Angels”

- How do you think the shepherds felt when the angels appeared to them with the Good News? How would you have responded?
- Why is it significant that the shepherds, considered outcasts by many, were chosen to receive the announcement of Jesus’ birth?
- What does it mean to you that the Good News of Jesus is for “all people”? How can you share this Good News with others?
- In what ways can you emulate the shepherds’ response by sharing the joy of Jesus’ birth with others this week?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- **Rediscover awe.** Spend 10 minutes each day reflecting on the wonder of Jesus’ birth. Consider how the light of Christ impacts your life.
- **Be a light.** Find one way to share God’s light with someone in need, whether through a kind act, an encouraging word, or an invitation to church.
- **Focus on Jesus.** Identify one distraction that is pulling you away from the true meaning of Christmas. Commit to setting it aside and focusing on Jesus’ light instead.