

HOPE *for the* HOLIDAYS

HOPE IN THE DARKNESS

DECEMBER 4
MCA DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Outline

Key verse

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

We have hope because Jesus shines in our darkness

1. The light of Christ illuminates your path

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 1:20

2. The light of Christ saves your soul

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

3. The light of Christ encourages your heart

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us").

Matthew 1:23

Opening Thought

Into God's perfect world, sin and evil and death were introduced. It was the start of a terrible, long dark night. But Christ broke into the darkness as the Light of the World. It's difficult to enjoy Christmas when we're in a dark place. The good news is that because of Jesus we have hope for the holidays!

Ice breakers

- What was your greatest fear as a child?
- What do you love the most about Christmastime?

Dig deeper

- Jesus says in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world." But in Matthew 5:14 he says, "You are the light of the world." How can this be? (See John 9:5)
- John shared today that the light of Christ illuminates your path. Share about a time when you were at a crossroads, unsure of what to do or where to go and the Lord provided you with clarity and direction.
- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- Read Matthew 1:20-24. What strikes you about Joseph?
- Who is someone that you can be a light to this Christmas season? What practical things can you do to be a "light" to them?

Closing

What parts of your life seem dark today? Jesus wants to shine on you and be in control of your life. Are you choosing to turn your life over to Christ?

Matching Quiz Can you match the name with the meaning?

Jesus	Anointed One
Christ	God with us
Alpha & Omega	Teacher
Messiah	The Lord Saves
Rabbi	Beginning & end (A-Z)
Immanuel	