

CHRISTMAS IS HERE...

Part 2.0 ... so let's CELEBRATE Him Genesis 1:3-4

A Candle in the Dark

First recorded words of our God ... "Let there be light."

First resulting action of our God ... Creating light

Jesus is both the **LIGHT AND LIFE**. *John 8:12; John 14:6*

In that Bethlehem stable, Light re-appeared. *Matthew 2:1-6*

As a result, men no longer need to **WALK IN DARKNESS**.

That is the Christmas **MESSAGE**.

Shine the Light becomes the Christmas **MISSION**. *Eph 5:8-17*

Children of the Light are compelled to **CELEBRATE**. *Luke 2:8 -19*

Why do we celebrate?

God **LOVES US**. *John 3:16*

God is **FOR US**. *John 3:17*

God has **SAVED US**. *Matthew 1:21*

God has **FORGIVEN OUR PAST**. *Acts 2:38*

God has **SECURED OUR FUTURE**. *Romans 6:23*

Confronted with the Christmas **MANDATE**.

The **TRUTH** of who Jesus is transforms us. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

What is Truth? *John 18:38*

What do we do with the Truth? *Matthew 2:1-6*

Humankind responds in one of three ways:

- Some will actively **SEEK IT**. Remember we are the star.
- Some will **FEAR IT or HATE IT**. It changes reality.
- Some will choose to **IGNORE IT**. Even when they know it is the truth.

Challenge:

- Into what category do you fall?
- Why would you desire to stumble in the darkness?
- What will you choose to do with the light and life of the world this Christmas?

Auburn Grace Community Church – December 15th, 2019

Life Group Questions – December 15th, 2019

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

QUICK REVIEW

1. We can all agree that light always dispels the darkness. Yet we keep areas of our lives behind closed doors, in the dark, even though we know God knows full well what's behind. What must we do to gain the courage to open our secret, dark places to the Light of Christ? (see Ephesians 5:8)

2. When we proclaim that we have "received Christ," what are we actually professing? What does it mean to "embrace the total package of Jesus"? How are you doing with the "knowing Him" part?

MY STORY

1. A non-believing associate has invited you to share what the Christmas message is. Knowing you will only have their undivided attention for a few minutes, what would you say? What scriptures come to mind? Make this a group activity, highlighting the essentials of an articulate answer.

2. What does "enlighten" mean to you? What are some of the pitfalls when we say that having knowledge by itself is illuminating? Compare and contrast this with Ephesians 1:15-19.

3. A commemoration is a celebration where a person or event is remembered. At Christmas, we commemorate the birth of Christ, God's gift to us. This Christmas, what ways can you think of to "re-gift" Jesus to a broken and hurting world?

GOING DEEP

1. Read Genesis 1:3, John 8:12 and 14:6. What is the relationship between these three verses? What distinctions can you make? What conclusion(s) can you draw?

2. We celebrate Christmas for a lot of reasons. The primary reason is that God loves us! Why else do we rejoice the Christ-child? (see John 3:16-17; Matthew 1:21; Acts 2:38; and Romans 6:23)

3. Read John 18:35-38. Why did Jesus come into the world? When looking at Jesus' life, in what ways did He actually testify to the truth? How can our lives also testify to the Truth?

4. In the passage above, Jesus revealed to Pilate the purpose of His incarnation and the nature of His Kingdom. What five things in v. 37 did Jesus offer to Pilate? Name three ways that we can choose to respond to the Truth? Into what category do you fall?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?