



The Apostle John doesn't tell the Christmas story in his gospel in the same way Luke does. Luke tells the familiar story of the angels in the sky appearing to the shepherds in the fields to announce that the Savior had been born in Bethlehem. John describes it as the arrival of the Light that comes to fight against darkness.

John says that Jesus is the "true light" and that He "gives light to everyone." In other words, if we can see, know, or understand truth, it is because He has given light to us. Jesus is not only the truth but also the way to know the truth.

We all must respond to the light He brings. John tells us that the world did not know Him and did not receive Him (John 1:10-11). What is the consequence of such rejection? Well, John 1:4 tells us what those who reject Him will miss out on: "In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

To reject His light is to reject life itself. So, Jesus is truth, He is the way to know truth, and He is the way to have life.

Luke also spoke of the struggle between light and darkness in recording the words of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. Read Luke 1:76-79.

No matter how hard the forces of evil try, they cannot overcome the Light. The truth of God's light will forever shine bright. Light always wins in a battle against darkness.

But Jesus wasn't only a light for the Jews, According to Luke 2:32 (and in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy) Jesus is the fulfillment of being "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory to your people Israel"

So as we prepare for Christmas and see all of the extra lights on the trees and the lights on the houses, we should also be ready to share the light of Christ to our community. Share that the Prince of Peace came into the world to rescue us. We need to, now more than ever, prepare ourselves so that we will have the right words and a pure heart to tell others about Jesus, our true light!

CBC at Home & Advent Devotional December 10, 2023

PEACE
the Angel's Candle
Sermon: Matthew 1

Holy God, You poured Yourself into the brokenness of our humanity and ushered in the perfect path of redemption for mankind. You brought about a transcendent peace not found in any other plane upon this injured sod, a peace so potent that it permeates all relationships and spans across all creation. Your peace swallows up the gloom, anguish, and darkness that tend to reveal themselves to us all the more acutely in this season of joy.

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, direct our spiritual eyes to You this morning so that we may see the beauty of Your incarnation. Maker of Heaven and Earth, come and be our Wonderful Counselor, our Prince of Peace. We give You all glory in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How have you seen Jesus as light in your life?
- What does peace look like to you? How do patience and peace work together? How do love, joy, and hope?
- What would it mean to make room for Jesus in our schedules, our hearts, our homes?
- Do you have specific verses that bring you peace? Why that verse and not others?

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FROM THE SERMON

(John 1)

- What are some other passages in the Bible about peace? (eg Hebrews 13:5-8, Philippians 4:6-8, Colossians 3:14-16) What are the things we learn about true peace?
- Is there anything that particularly stood out to you from the sermon?

FAMILY QUESTIONS

- Can you name a time or thing when you were afraid? What brought you peace? What are some Bible stories where God helped people overcome fear?
- How can we take time during the advent to show people the peace of Jesus?

JESUS HAD MANY NAMES. ALL THE WORDS BELOW WERE USED TO REFER TO JESUS IN THE BIBLE. FIT THE NAMES INTO THE PUZZLE.

(HINT: START WITH THE LONGEST NAMES)

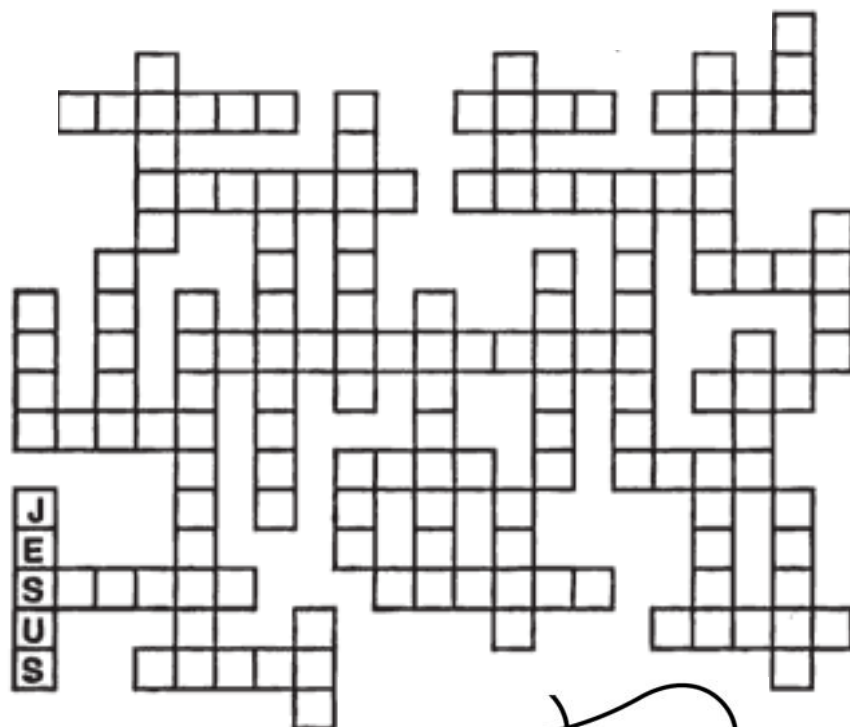
GOD
SUN
WAY
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GATE
LORD
KING
VINE
LIFE
SEED
STAR

RABBI
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LIGHT
TRUTH
ALPHA
OMEGA
STONE

FATHER
PRINCE
BRANCH
CHRIST
SAVIOR
MESSIAH
TEACHER

REDEEMER
IMMANUEL
SHEPHERD
COUNSELOR
BRIDEGROOM
RESURRECTION



WEEKLY PRAYER

- Our Men & Women in Uniform
- Joe & Kandi Depue, Ethnos360 Brazil
- Jeff Lundeen, Financial Secretary
- Krista Johnson, Director of Children's Ministries
- Young Married Lifestage & class
- Faith Community Church, New London
- Those who do not yet have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus (Col 4:2-4)

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
Psalms 23:4 (ESV)