



**Needing The Light**  
**December 9/10**  
**John 1:1-5**

Light and Dark are two of the most powerful images and metaphors we know. As children, many of us were afraid of the dark. The power of darkness seemed to go beyond the mere fact that everything was hidden to our sight. As we grew older, we (hopefully) discovered that there was no bogeyman hiding in the closet. At the same time, we learned that the reality of the darkness in the world was much worse than our childish fears. Disease, war, trafficking, abuse, racism and death all point to the darkness of our broken world. But God did not leave us there. In this series, we will see how God, because of love, sent the light that shines in, and ultimately defeats, the darkness.

**Sermon Notes:**

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**Welcome**

- Introduce anyone new to the group.
- Icebreaker: What was one of your fears as a child? What is a fear you deal with today?

**Opening Prayer (Don't Skip This!)**

Ask God to prepare your hearts for what he wants to teach you. Pray that each person would believe that God wants to speak to him or her over the coming hour. Pray that all will listen to God.

**Vision**

Three times a year, we have an event at Crossroads called Group Connect. This is an opportunity for people to gather together with the purpose of forming brand new small groups. Our next Group Connect is January 21 at both campuses. Would you encourage your small group to pray for this event? And would you challenge those you have been modeling leadership to consider stepping into group leadership themselves? There are hundreds of people at Crossroads who are regularly a part of our weekend experience, but have not experienced the life changing power of spiritual community.

**Look Back**

- How have you seen God at work around you over the past week?
- Did you follow through on a step of obedience from the group's last meeting?
- Did you share last week's Bible passage with anyone? How did it go?



### Look Up

- When John began his gospel with, “In the beginning was the Word...” he was saying a lot. He referred to Jesus as “the Word”—which comes from the Greek word “logos.” This word carried a lot of weight for both audiences. For the Jewish people, logos was the name for the Creator God. Logos was supreme and superior. In Greek philosophy, logos was the principle of reason or the basis of reality.
- John’s important point is that Jesus is the center of foundation of everything. He existed before everything and all things were created through him. He is the basis of truth and understanding. And he is the giver of life and light.
- Read John 1:1-5 several times together as a group.

**As you read through the passage, what stood out to you? What is challenging or difficult to understand?**

- Light and darkness have several meanings in John. One has to do with moral darkness and brokenness, sin and judgment. The other has to do with the darkness of confusion, unbelief or lostness. How have you experienced darkness in these ways?
- Are there ways in which it seems that the darkness is actually growing? How do we make sense of that in light of verse 5?

- Like the woman who lived for decades in blindness, even though there was a medical procedure to give her sight, we sometimes assume that darkness is just the way things are, either in the world or in ourselves. Have you experienced the light of Jesus coming in to an area of your life you assumed would always be dark?

**What does this passage say about God? What does it say about us?**

- What does it mean to you that God made the “first move” by sending his son, the Word, to shine into the darkness of this world and of our lives?
- Darkness isn’t just something that’s “out there”. It’s shows up in our lives as well. This weekend’s message said that we often: Pretend that darkness is no big deal; We don’t want our darkness to be known; and We fear what the light might cost us. Which of those three speaks the most to your own experience?

### Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes for silent prayer before Looking Ahead.
- What is one way you can obey this passage?
- How can you wrestle with the question this week: How have I denied the light by preferring the darkness?
- Who can you share this passage with? Be specific. If you can’t think of anyone, ask God to show you who you who that person might be.