



## LIGHT OF THE WORLD

### #1: CHASING AWAY THE DARKNESS

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Pastor Keith Jenkins

#### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"When the light comes, darkness is chased away."*

–Pastor  
Keith Jenkins

*"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life...These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come." (John 8:12, 20)*

#### **Additional Texts:**

*"Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine." (Isaiah 9:1-2)*

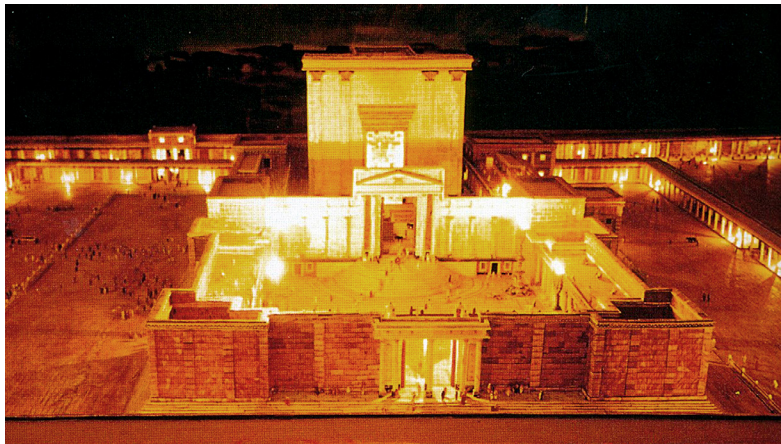
*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day." (Genesis 1:1-5, 14, 19)*

#### MESSAGE SUMMARY

*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." (1John 1:5)*

In the book of Isaiah, Israel finds itself in rebellion, but Isaiah 9:1-2 talks about people walking in darkness who will see a great light. In the Bible, darkness is used as a metaphor for death, despair and separation from God. Light is a metaphor for God Himself, truth, justice, all that is good.

There is always something about darkness that creates confusion and despair, but in the light we find peace. Have you ever been in a dark time, and couldn't wait to get to church? Genesis 1 is where we see the first mention of light and darkness. The light is the radiant presence of the Lord. In His being there is no darkness at all. God is initiating and bringing His light into the world. God is constantly seeking us. He initiates.



In John 8:12, Jesus says he is the "light of the world." He declared this during the feast of tabernacles, a week long celebration commemorating the Exodus. During this feast, they would light up the temple every night with giant oil lamps and you could see the glow for

miles. This is the image that's fresh in the minds of those when Jesus says that he is the light of the world.. Jesus is in effect saying he's the glory cloud of God. In Him is the light and life of God, embodied in Christ Jesus. He is saying he is the source of all truth and all life. Jesus says that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness, just like Israel following the pillar of fire by night in the wilderness, they will know the way to go and be kept in God's Presence.

Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, comes to us and brings light. In His coming, he brings life and light to your marriage, your singleness, or your career—whatever in your life needs God's light to chase away the darkness He wants to come and bring light and life.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

### LEAN IN

***These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?  
Why was it significant to you?
2. If you were scared of the dark as a child, or still are, what was it about darkness that caused/causes this?

### LOOK DOWN

***These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. Who is it that sees a great light in Isaiah 9:1-7? Who do you think they are?
2. What do we learn about God in 1 John 1:5? Why does this matter?
3. Look at John 8:12. Imagine being in the crowd and hearing Jesus say these words.  
What do you think you would have thought or felt when he talked about himself being the "Light of the world"?

### LOOK OUT

***These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. Where have you seen light in our world today?
2. Where have you seen darkness in our world (both globally and locally)?
3. Who are the followers of Jesus that you have observed bringing light into dark places?

### LOOK IN

***These are questions that help you consider personal application.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. Where is there darkness in you (brokenness, despair, feeling cut off from God)?
2. What can you do to invite the Holy Spirit who wants to bring in light into those dark places?
3. What have you learned about yourself and about how God dispels darkness that gives you hope?

### LIVE IT OUT

***These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.***

***Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What can you do today to bring light into the life of someone else?
2. What would you do for them, or say to them, that might bring light to darkness?