

WORSHIP AT HOME

December 24, 2023

Getting Ready

- 1- Grab friends or family to join you in this short Christmas reflection. Invite everyone to participate in lighting lights and/or reading scripture.
- 2- All scriptures are from the ESV. Feel free to read from your own Bible! You can also choose a different translation by using bible.com or the YouVersion Bible app. If you're doing this with young kids, the NLT or MSG versions are great alternatives.
- 3- You will need 5 small lights (plus room lighting) to get the full experience. Use whatever you have! Candles, flashlights, lamps, and Christmas lights will all work well.
- 4- Consider beginning or ending your reflection time with a favorite Christmas hymn or two. Listen, play, or sing along together!

[Start in complete or near darkness]

Read Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

[Turn on one small light.]

Reflect: What does the light do to the darkness?

Read Isaiah 9:2

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

[Turn on a second small light.]

Reflect: Can you recall an experience of coming out of deep darkness into light? What did that feel like?

Read John 1:1-5, 9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

[Turn on a third small light.]

Reflect: Who is this light that both Isaiah and John spoke about?

Read Matthew 1:21-22 and 2:1-2, 10-11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

...And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

*optional- read the entire Christmas story in Luke 1-2

[Turn on a fourth small light.]

Reflect: What led the wise men to Jesus? What gifts can we bring to Jesus?

Read John 8:12

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

[Turn on a fifth small light.]

Reflect: How has Jesus brought light and life to you this year?

Read Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

...And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

[Turn on ALL the lights!]

Reflect: What might it look like and feel like without darkness or night?
In what way can you invite the light of Christ into your life *now*, even as you wait for the eternal light of heaven?

PRAY! Express wonder and joy to Jesus, the Light of the world. Invite Him to light your way today and through 2024 and beyond (Psalm 119:105).