



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of December 17, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What is freedom? What is our freedom for?

I Corinthians 9:19-27

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

A Servant to All

- When among Jews who are under the Law, Paul becomes like them. What would be an example of this? (20)
- When among Gentiles who are not under the Law, Paul becomes like them. What would be an example of this? (21)
- What does Paul mean by "I have become all things to all people" (22-23), Why would Paul give up his freedom and make such accommodations in ministry?
- Paul has been talking about setting aside ourselves for others and the Gospel for two chapters! How is this aspect of ministry like an athlete in training? (24-27)
- How is God calling you to "become all things to all people" (22) in this season of your life?
- Jesus [became like us that we might become like Him](#). Reflect on this week's passage together, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit
www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide

Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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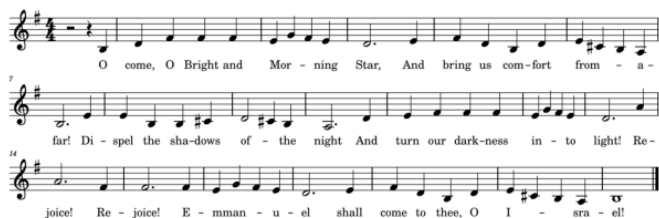




WEEK OF DECEMBER 17TH

O Bright & Morning Star

SING



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.

Matthew 2:1-2

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."

REFLECT

*O Lord of life, our only hope
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts...*

— Sandra McCracken

As our Lord Jesus tells us, unless we see the light of God clearly, what we call light is actually darkness: 'how great is that darkness!' (Matt. 6:23). Advent bids us take a fearless inventory of the darkness: the darkness without and the darkness within.

— Fleming Rutledge

Think of a time you were in total darkness. How did you feel?

Jesus is repeatedly referred to as a 'light' throughout Scripture: **Light of the world, the True Light, the Bright Morning Star** – why does Jesus want us to see Him as the Light of the World? What does light do?

When it is dark, we can't see a way forward. When it is dark, it is often cold without the warmth of the sun or fire. **Lamentations 3:22-23** says that God's mercies are new every morning and are a sign of His great faithfulness to His people. I wonder if part of God's mercy is the light He brings faithfully every morning to dispel the dark and frightening shadows of the night.

How does remembering Jesus as our Light give you hope?

How does it show His mercy and faithfulness to you?

PRACTICE

This coming week:

Consider a way you are struggling with darkness this week (suffering without relief, a struggle with sin, brokenness in a relationship). Ask Jesus for comfort and renewed hope in the promise that **His light overcomes the world**.

Recall a moment or season that felt dark (perhaps you are in one now). **How did Jesus meet you with His light?** Did He provide a way out? A friend to walk alongside you? A word of comfort? Share with someone about that experience this week.

PRAY

O Bright Morning Star,
we have chosen the way of
darkness over the light,
we have chosen war and our own
prideful desires over peace.
Forgive us, we pray.
Shine your light on the sin the
holds us,
and comfort us with Your mercy.
Take away the shadows of
the night,
and according to your steadfast
love,
guide our feet into the way of peace.

Access the full WEPC Advent 2023 Devotional [HERE](#).