



WEEKEND RESOURCES | DECEMBER 1, 2024

Waiting for the Light at the End of the Tunnel

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE DURING YOUR STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

Message Recap: As we come off Thanksgiving, we reflect on the importance of gratitude, even during difficult times. Many of us are waiting for a breakthrough—a light at the end of the tunnel that brings hope in dark situations. The Messiah was prophesied to bring light to those living in darkness, and Jesus fulfills that promise. We don't have to wait for the world to change to be thankful—Jesus is already here, and His light is already shining.

» Main Points

- We don't have to wait for the Light - He's already come
- Count Your Blessings
- Find Your People
- Look for Light

» Getting Started

- Talk about a time when you were afraid of the dark. What were some of the things you experienced when you were afraid?

» Observation

- Read and reflect on [Isaiah 9:1-2](#); [Matthew 4:13-16](#); [Genesis 1:3-4](#); [John 1:1-5](#); [8:12](#); [9:5](#); [12:46](#)
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses?

reachout

- This week, write thank-you notes to anyone who shows gratitude: your neighbor who keeps an eye on your house while you travel, your co-worker who covers your vacation days, or your trashman who takes your garbage every week.

growdeep

- Read Isaiah 9:1-2 and Matthew 4:13-16. What similarities and differences do you notice? What encouragement can you see in these verses for today?
- What is something that you are afraid of right now? What kind of hope do you need to face your fear?
- Considering the circumstances in our world today, how can you help spread light and hope this Advent season?

partner with families

- Spend some time this week (maybe a dinner) going around and talking about what each person is thankful for. Then, have everyone share one reason they are thankful for Jesus and something they are hopeful for.

» Next Steps and Prayer

- Spend time this next week reflecting on these questions:
 - Are you waiting for circumstances to improve before you can experience peace and joy?
 - Are you ready to open your eyes to the light of Christ that is already present in your life?
 - Can you cultivate a heart of thankfulness, not because everything is perfect, but because Jesus is with you, offering hope and certainty in the midst of everything?
- Close by praying this prayer: Jesus - Help me recognize the hope I already have because of you. Fill me with gratitude and contentment for what I have, and inspire me to share hope and light with those around me.