

Jesus the Light of the World



Happy December. What do you think of when you think of Christmas?



Maybe it's all the fun traditions; like baking cookies, listening to and singing Christmas carols, or getting and giving presents.



Maybe you enjoy going to church and hearing the account of Jesus being born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.



I like it all, but one of things I look forward to early in December is putting up the Christmas lights and getting the house all decorated.



We just moved to Montana last year but one of the things we noticed was how much darker it is in the winter. While in the past we visited Montana in the summer and enjoyed the long day times, we didn't know what it was like to live with the opposite situation and have more darkness.



Maybe that's why putting up lights has become so important to me. I think as people we don't like to stay in the darkness, we want to see what's happening around us and be able to enjoy the light.



Did you know that in the Bible the story of Christmas is filled with light? It was a light that helped people see and understand that Jesus was coming to be the Light of the World.

The first light we see was seen by the Shepherds. Jesus had been born in Bethlehem and God wanted some special visitors to come and see his son that was born in the stables. So Luke tells us that there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

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Imagine you are in your bedroom in the middle of the night and it's completely dark, you can't even see any light outside your window. You turn your cell phone on and the light seems really bright. But for the shepherds, the light they experienced, was a light that was brighter than 100 spotlights. They had never seen anything like it and they were afraid.

But Jesus didn't come to cause fear, listen to what the angel say:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

God used the light to let the shepherd know something incredible was happening and they needed to be a part of it. This was the Savior of the world coming to earth to be a man. So, when the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." The shepherds knew what they had to do and went to find Jesus.

There was another group of people who were invited to see Jesus. Matthew tells us of the Magi from the east who came to Jerusalem because they saw a star in the sky and knew that wasn't normal and they needed to study it. These men had spent their lives trying to understand the light of stars that they could only see in the darkness of nighttime. They knew that the star they saw was special and deserved their attention. They even knew from the scriptures the special king would be born in Bethlehem.

These men followed the star and rejoiced when they saw that it stopped over the house that Jesus was living in. They were so excited to see Jesus and gave him gifts to celebrate his birth.

There's another writer in the Bible named John, he was one of the disciples of Jesus. When he talks about Jesus coming into the world he doesn't mention his birth, but instead he says that Jesus was the light that came into the world to be a light to all mankind. Jesus light shines in the darkness and no amount of darkness can overcome it.

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Imagine you are back in your room with the lights out and instead of a bright light being turned on it was a little light of one of the buttons on your cell phone. At first it would seem that the light was really bright, but eventually that light would look dimmer and dimmer as your eyes got overwhelmed by the darkness again. But Jesus is like the light of a million flashlights that lights up the whole room and nothing is dark anymore, there are not even any shadows.

When Jesus got older he called himself the light of the world. He said that whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. In the darkness we can trip and fall, or become frightened and afraid. But Jesus came to give us life and be a light to all the world.

Is Jesus your light? Do you depend on him to light your life and guide you in all that you do? When the shepherd saw the light in the field that night and heard the angels worshipping God they immediately wanted to join the celebration. When the wise men saw the star and decided to follow it, they brought the best of gifts to Jesus to honor him with what they had.

John tells us in chapter 3 verse 16 that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Jesus came to earth as a baby with a purpose to light the world up so that people would believe in him and have life forever with God in heaven.

My prayer is that this year you will decide to believe that Jesus came to earth to die on the cross and rise again to pay the price for the darkness in your life. When you believe in Jesus and make him the King of your life you will no longer walk in darkness but have the light of Jesus with you forever.

Merry Christmas from your friends at Camp Promise.

Jeff & Emmy Ort and Beth Wiegand

Digging In Questions

Choose the best answer

1. Who were the people that saw the angels in the night sky?
A. the wise men B. the King C. Mary and Joseph D. the shepherds
2. The angels made a light that was as bright as a
A. candle B. a cell phone C. 100 spotlights D. car headlight
3. The angel told the shepherds to not be _____
A. afraid B. talking C. standing still D. jumping up and down
4. The shepherds went to _____ to see Jesus.
A. Jerusalem B. Big Sky Bible Camp C. Bethlehem D. Nazareth
5. John 3:16 says that God so _____ the world that he sent Jesus.
A. hated B. loved C. cared for D. worried about

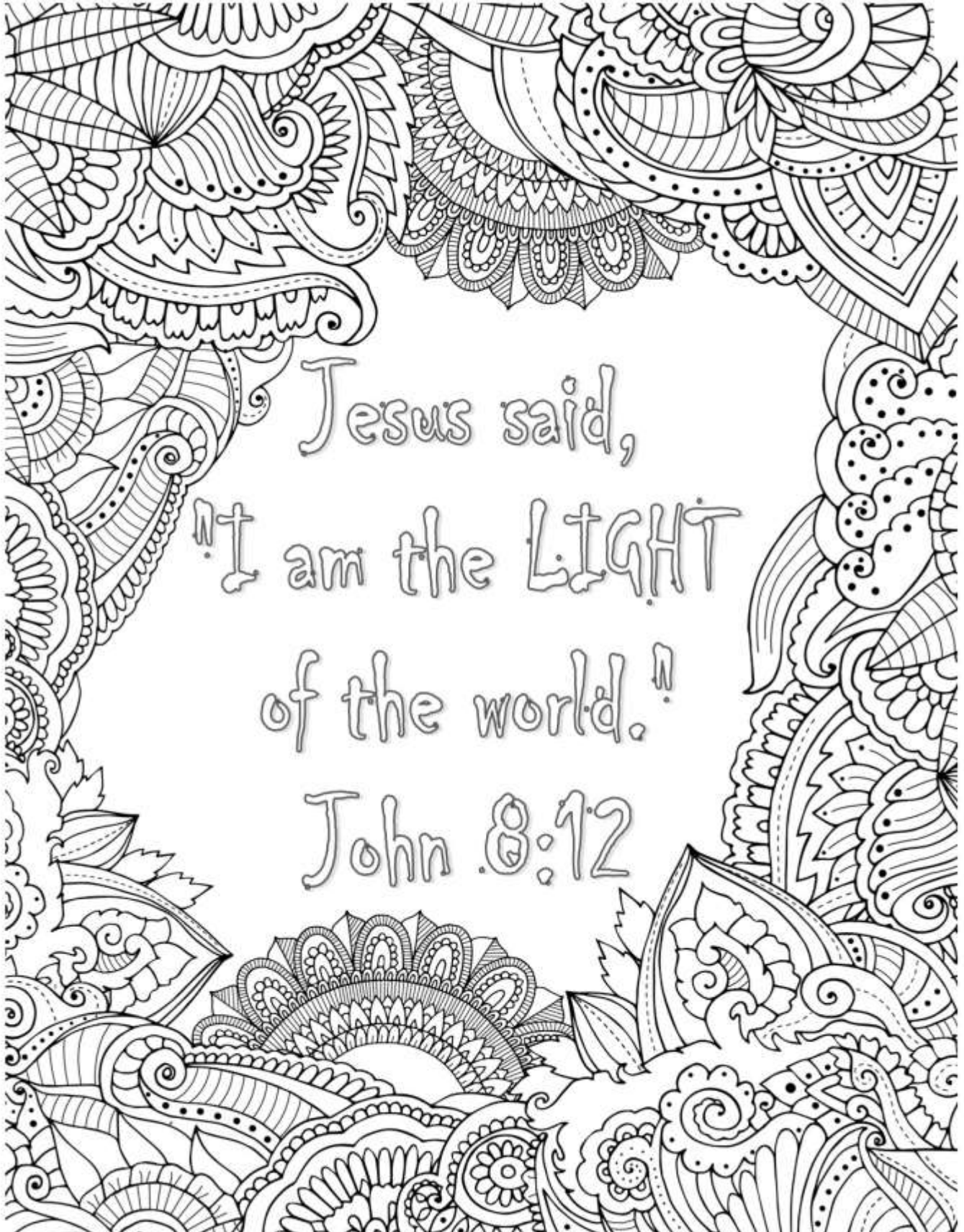
Things to think about

1. If Jesus didn't come to earth as a little baby, would it have made a difference in the world?
2. Does Jesus coming to earth make a difference in your life?
3. How can you show God's light to the people around you?

God sent his son, Jesus, on purpose to be a person on the earth. As a person, Jesus never did anything wrong or sin. He was perfect and when he died on the cross he was the only perfect sacrifice that could have paid the price for our sins. But he didn't stay dead, he rose from the grave and lives with God in heaven. God's gift of Jesus, to be the light of the world, is the greatest gift we could have ever received. Do you believe in Jesus and have made him the most important part of your life? Won't you receive Jesus today and enjoy God's gift to us.

Answers to the Questions:

1. D 2. C 3. A 4. C 5. B



Jesus said,
"I am the LIGHT
of the world."

John 8:12



Print out this sheet on heavy paper and color in the pictures. Cut the ornaments at the gray line and glue a piece of ribbon to the top and use as an ornament on your tree or give to someone else.

Merry Christmas

