



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN COMPLETE DARKNESS?

Maybe the power went out in your house or you were outside late at night. Were you scared? What did you do?

Darkness can be pretty scary. It's hard to make out the shadows from the shapes around you. It can be confusing and difficult to figure out where you are.

You have to move slowly so you don't bump into things or fall.

But what happens when you turn on a light? Yes!

You can see everything around you in brilliant color, and the scary shadows are gone! The world around you is less confusing; and as long as you don't need glasses, things are crystal clear!





When we live in God's light, we are able to better understand God's Word and hear His voice. When we live in spiritual darkness, we ignore God and don't follow His laws. We live the way we want and forget about the Lord who loves us so much.

Sometimes God's people, the Israelites, walked in the light. They followed God and obeyed His commands. But other times they walked in darkness. Instead of walking in the light and asking God for wisdom, they stumbled in the dark. They asked idols for help. They followed other people's ways instead of following God's ways. They were lost and without hope.

Even though the Israelites were in darkness and far from God, He used a prophet named Isaiah to give them a special message. **Can you help me find Isaiah chapter 9, verses 2 and 6-7?**

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. ... FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE. OF THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND OF PEACE THERE WILL BE NO END, ON THE THRONE OF DAVID AND OVER HIS KINGDOM, TO ESTABLISH IT AND TO UPHOLD IT WITH JUSTICE AND WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THIS TIME FORTH AND FOREVERMORE. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL DO THIS.

ISAIAH 9:2,6-7

The nation of Israel was facing some pretty scary things, but a special Light was coming. This Light would be so bright it would overcome darkness and defeat sin. When this Light arrived the people would rejoice! This Light would bring righteousness and peace that never ends. **The Light of the World was coming.**



* MORE TO EXPLORE

GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

ISAIAH

This week's story comes from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah is called a prophetic book and was written by the prophet Isaiah. God spoke to Isaiah, and Isaiah told God's people what He said. This book includes prophecies that were fulfilled when Jesus came to Earth and even prophecies about things yet to come when God restores all things!

HOW DO WE REALLY KNOW ISAIAH WAS TALKING ABOUT JESUS?

The Gospels confirm this truth. Matthew 4:12-17 says Jesus fulfilled the prophecy from Isaiah 9:1-2 and that He began His ministry in Galilee. If we believe the Bible is God's inspired Word to us and Jesus is fully God and fully man, we can be sure Isaiah spoke of Jesus in the 8th century B.C.

OT-NT CONNECTION

The New Testament talks about the difference between lightness and darkness too. Paul contrasts the two opposites and encourages believers to follow God. **Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.**

- Besides lightness and darkness, what are some things Paul contrasts in these verses?
- What areas of darkness are in your life that you can ask Jesus to shine His light on?

READ



Think about a favorite story you've read (or read a new story this week!). Storytellers love to use light and dark to communicate things about good and evil. Think about one of your favorite stories and the characters that play the villain and hero. In what ways are they characterized by light and dark? How are those things communicated in the story?

WHY DID THE ISRAELITES NEED TO KNOW JESUS WAS COMING WHEN HE WOULDN'T BE BORN FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS?

God is not bound by time or history in the same way we are. His promise of Jesus told the Israelites He saw them in their darkness, held hope for their future, was in control of history and could be trusted. Like the Israelites, we don't always see the answers to our prayers or the fulfillment of God's promises in our lifetime. But we know that He is faithful and we can trust Him.

JOURNAL



Write down or draw pictures of different things that bring us light on Earth (for example, a lightbulb). Now, think about how Jesus brings spiritual light to anyone who believes in Him. Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior?

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

♥ MEMORIZE

**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.**

ISAIAH 9:2

**Q: WHERE ARE THOSE
WITHOUT CHRIST?**

A: IN DARKNESS.

SHARE

Tell your kids about a time you felt “in the dark” about a decision you needed to make. Explain how you asked God to “shine a light” on the situation and tell them how He directed you to make the right choice.

WATCH



Watch this Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR CREATING LIGHT SO WE CAN ENJOY YOUR WONDERFUL WORLD. THANK YOU FOR SENDING JESUS, THE LIGHT THAT SHINES THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF OUR SIN, AND MAKING A WAY FOR US TO KNOW YOU. HELP US TO STAY IN YOUR LIGHT, LEARN FROM YOUR WORD AND SERVE YOU ALWAYS. AMEN.

COUNT

Help your child make an Advent paper chain to decorate a doorway, staircase or Christmas tree. Write your family's prayer requests and praises on each link of the chain. Tear one link off each day as you count down to Christmas, and pray for that request.

FIND

This week's passage is in the book of Isaiah. Help your child find the book of Isaiah. Is it in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters does it have?

SHOW

Take your child into a dark room and ask them to put together a puzzle. Explain that living apart from God is like trying to put the puzzle pieces of our life together in darkness. Next, turn on the light and put the puzzle together. Remind them that living in God's light is the best place to be.

TRACE



Trace the coloring sheet on a plastic page protector with permanent marker. Insert a black piece of paper. Then, cut out the image of a flashlight (with light beam) on white paper. Place it beneath the plastic and move it around. Remind your kids about the light of Jesus as they illuminate the illustration. Watch this video to see how!



**SCAN HERE TO LISTEN
WHEREVER YOU ARE!**

SING

Listen to this playlist throughout this series to praise God for the Light of the World.

COLORING PAGE

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IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN
A GREAT LIGHT; THOSE
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