



## Message Discussion Guide Week of November 27, 2022

**Message:** Light it Up, Part 1: Light of Life

**Key Scripture:** [John 1:1-5](#)

**Preacher:** Tom Parkinson

### Message Highlights:

As miraculous as it is, there is nothing more normal than the birth of a child. 117 billion babies have been born in the history of the world, and in 2022 a baby is born every four seconds.

Of these 117 billion births, Christians believe that one birth stands out among the rest: the birth of Jesus. If Matthew and Luke tell us what happened when Jesus was born, John tells us what it means. John 1 communicates why the birth of Jesus is so life changing.

John begins by telling us that to understand the birth of Jesus we need to go back not to the womb of Mary, but all the way to the very beginning.

- Jesus is the Word of God – the agent of creation.
- Jesus pre-exists the world, and he is in fact God. His words and actions are the words and actions of God.

Jesus' birth is akin to an episode of "Undercover Boss." The creator of the universe comes as one of us.

- Jesus comes to bring the light of life to the darkness of the world.
- His coming means that the darkness must ultimately flee.

The best way to overcome the darkness that clouds our lives is to stand in the light of Christ. To bask in his presence, soak in his glory, and allow his light to shine in us and through us.

### Discussion Questions:

1. The Christmas season is upon us. What do you love about this season? What do you wish was different? How do you keep Christ at the center of your Christmas celebration?

2. Pastor Tom observed that even as the birth of a child seems miraculous, it is also quite normal. In what ways is the birth of Jesus normal? In what ways is it miraculous?
3. Read [John 1:1-5](#)
  - What do these verses tell us about Jesus? What makes him different from all others?
  - Jesus is identified as “the Word.” What does this title mean? What does it tell us about the Word of God? About Jesus’ identity?
  - Why does John describe Jesus as bringing light into darkness? How do physical light and darkness serve as an analogy for spiritual truth?
  - Why do you think John chooses to begin his gospel with these words, rather than recounting the manger, shepherds, and angels?
4. Where do you see darkness in the world today? In what ways are you experiencing darkness in your own life? How does the Christmas season bring light to that darkness? What hope does Christ shine over these situations?
5. What is one thing you can do this Christmas season to bask in the light of Christ?

**Call to Action:** Make a plan to bring the light of Christ into the dark places of your world. List one thing (even as small thing) you can do in your home, your church, and your community that will bring hope this Christmas season. Then do it!