



Christmas Eve

John 1: 9-14

On Christmas Eve we celebrate that Jesus came as the Messiah, the One who would save the people from their sins. Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies spoken of Him through the ages, and in Jesus, we see a beautiful picture of the fullness of God.

The day has finally come! It is Christmas Eve, and what a joy it is for us all to be together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. For the last four weeks, the church has been celebrating the Advent season, as we have remembered the powerful promises of hope, peace, joy, and love that were given to us in the arrival of Jesus. Advent is about anticipating the coming of the Messiah to rescue the world. As Christians today, we now anticipate the day Jesus will return and make all things right. Christmas is marked by expectation in every way, shape, and form.

The people of God were familiar with promises that had been given to them hundreds of years before any manger, angels, wise men, or star. They trusted God's faithfulness and believed that He would come through. Finally, in the tiny city of Bethlehem, a young couple named Joseph and Mary found themselves in a farm shed behind an inn that was too full to accommodate even a pregnant woman. It was there, in a stinky manger, that the Savior of the world was laid—from the God of the universe to a vulnerable baby wrapped in swaddling cloth.

In fact, the book of Isaiah speaks to a day that a light would dawn on the people who were living in deep darkness. This light brought hope to a hopeless situation. This light brought peace to people who had lived in chaos. This light brought joy to a world that was miserable. This light brought love to the human race that had forgotten about God. Jesus was known in the Scriptures as the light of the world. Like any

other light, He came into the world to accomplish certain things. He came to reveal the darkness in every corner of our lives and in every corner of the world—not to shame us, but to heal us. He also came to shine a light on the right way to live. It is hard to navigate a dark and broken world; the birth of Jesus is a light that lights our path.

Key Question: How will you allow your life to shine into the lives of others?

HOW ARE YOU
HELPING OTHERS
SEE JESUS
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON?

Jesus meets us with such grace, and He reminds us that we are loved for who we are and not who we should be. Jesus also meets us with truth, which tells us that we can be more than we are right now. The truth of Jesus reveals the sin within our hearts, and the grace of Jesus removes it. As He shines into our lives, He makes us new. The beauty of Christmas is not just that Jesus shines into us, but also that He shines through us.

Sometimes we don't even realize the kind of hope, peace, joy and love we are giving the world by the light we shine as a follower of Jesus. When we love others, serve others, encourage others and live our lives like Jesus, the world will notice.

There are many traditional songs to sing at Christmas time, let's add another: "This Little Light of Mines...I'm Going to Let It Shine". As you go about today and tomorrow, allow the Lord to serenade you with the songs of your Christmas past, songs of Christmas today... then add a new one; add "This Little Light of Mines" to your list. Let the Light of the World shine in your heart... let the Him shine through you towards others... "that men may see your good works... and glorify your Father which in heaven..." (Matt. 5:16), and His name is Jesus!"

