

Message by Pastor Matt Brown
Discussion by Small Groups Leadership Team

THE VISITATION: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The people who walk in darkness, will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. ISAIAH 9:2 NASB

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. JOHN 1:1-5 ESV

ICEBREAKER: Remember a time when you were hopeful for something? What happened? What did that feel like?

1. THE LIGHT...

- **FINALLY CAME**

While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world. JOHN 9:5 NASB

- **SHOWS THE WAY TO LIFE**

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." JOHN 8:12 NASB

DISCUSSION: What area of darkness in your life needs to be brought into the light of Christ? Maybe you have identified your core sins, but how did they manifest themselves in your life this past week?

2. THE WORLD REJECTED LIGHT

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all

who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. JOHN 1:9-12 ESV

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. JOHN 3:19 NASB

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4 ESV

DISCUSSION: In what way does the world still reject Jesus as the light? Who do they say He is? What are you doing to more accurately represent Him through the way in which you live your life?

3. THE LIGHT WINS

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1 JOHN 1:5 NASB

On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. 1 JOHN 2:8 NASB

DISCUSSION: In what way do you still act like the light is overcome by darkness? What are practical ways in which we can bring the light into a dark situation?

PRAYER PROJECT: Sit with the Lord. Take some time to meditate on the hymn from Sunday: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of this world will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

What stood out to you? What did the Lord say during your time of meditating with Him?