

The background of the top section is a soft-focus bokeh of warm, glowing lights in shades of yellow, orange, and white, creating a festive and cozy atmosphere.

Christmas Lights

Living In Light Of Jesus

FAITH FAMILY | CHRISTMAS SERIES

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	<i>Living in light of Jesus</i>
Part 1: Luke 5:8-11	We live <u>gratefully</u> in light of Jesus.
Part 2: Luke 12:1-3	We live <u>authentically</u> in light of Jesus.
Part 3: Luke 19:1-3	We live <u>focused</u> in light of Jesus.
Part 4: Luke 24:45-49	We live <u>obediently</u> in light of Jesus.
Part 5: Isaiah 61:1-4 .	We live <u>hopefully</u> in light of Jesus.
This December, we're sharing a discipleship series called <i>Christmas Lights</i>, because we want to shine for Jesus in our culture. We are seeking the LORD with a core question: <i>How do we shine for Jesus in this culture?</i> Our catalytic idea is to: <u>Walk in the Light. (1 John1:7)</u> During this Christmas series, we want to follow Jesus through these stories in the Gospel of Luke to learn how to live in light of Jesus' finished work and endless worth. HOW TO DEVELOP THIS DISCIPLESHIP SERIES: 1. Use this as a Done-With-You resource, not a Done-For-You resource. 2. Plan on pulling together 5-6 times for 30 minutes each. 3. Consider using the Faith Family group format we have practiced before... a. Highs & Lows b. Loving Accountability Questions c. Vision-Casting/ Encouragement d. Discovery Bible Study – PLUG IN THIS SERIES e. Goal-Setting f. Practice g. Prayer 4. Consider teaming up with another family to share this discipleship series.	

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Living in light of Jesus

Part 1: Luke 5:8-11

We live gratefully in light of Jesus.

LUKE 5:8 - 11 ESV

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Discussion Guide:

- Peter realized that he did not deserve Jesus' help.
- Jesus' generosity changed Peter's heart.
- Believers are *grateful* for the Gospel, not just entitled to eternal life.
- The rights we have in Christ are wrongs without faith in Jesus.
- Like Christmas lights, nothing we have comes from us or stays with us.

Remember, Have Fun!

- You can do some many fun things with "Christmas Lights!"
- You can decorate something (or someone!) with Christmas lights!
 - You can walk/ drive around the neighborhood to find Christmas lights together.
- You can play a game together.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Living in light of Jesus

Part 2: Luke 12:1-3

We live authentically in light of Jesus.

LUKE 12:1-3

- In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

Discussion Guide:

- Jesus’ authenticity offended others of hypocrisy.
- Authenticity is cultivated in privacy.
- Authenticity gives people credibility.
- As Christ’s disciples, we must keep walking in the light *privately*.
- Everything will come to light; not if but *when*...
- Like Christmas lights, we must keep the lights on through the night/ dark.
- Jesus shapes our inner-world.

Extra reading: If you’re hosting a group of young adults or adults, this would be great to add.

LUKE 12:35-38ESV

–“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

Living authentically in light of Jesus means we are always living pure before the LORD.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Living in light of Jesus

Part 3: Luke 19:1-3

We live focused in light of Jesus.

LUKE 19:11-15 ESV

- 11 As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. 12 He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. 13 Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' 14 But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' 15 When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business.

This one is all about FOCUS! Let's play a staring contest!

Have you ever been distracted? What distracts you from a conversation? Homework? Etc.

In Luke 19,

- Jesus is focused on Zaccheus
- Jesus teaches us to stay focused on His coming
- Jesus weeps because Jerusalem was not focused on their Day of visitation
- Jesus shows us how the Church stays focused

Christmas reminds us that the LORD is faithful to come like He promised. We must stay focused on Him while we wait for Him to fulfill His promises to us.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

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Part 4: Luke 24:45-49

We live obediently in light of Jesus.

LUKE 24:45-49 ESV

- Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

What did Jesus command his disciples to do? Did they obey? What happened?

What is the difference between love-based obedience and rules-based obedience?

Obedience to Jesus brings blessing. Why? Can you give examples?

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

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Part 5:Isaiah 61:1-4

We live hopefully in light of Jesus.

ISAIAH 61:1-4 ESV

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

We have hope because of Jesus!

Jesus fulfills all God's promises.

Faith in Jesus to fulfill our lives.