



Hidden Christmas

BLESS Rhythms

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying coffee, encouraging text/email, etc.). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

EAT: This is the practice of sharing food with people. This can happen in a home or in a coffee shop. *Who are you eating with/ inviting into your home?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS December 1, 2019

Opening Questions:

1. Many Christians are noticing that Christmas is increasingly being trivialized and commodified. How do you see this happening? How does your family make Christmas a meaningful celebration?
2. Recall Sid's puppet play, how would you explain the meaning of Christmas to an "alien"?

Going Deeper:

Read Isaiah 9:2-9

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What comes to your mind when you think of people walking in darkness? How do you see this today?
3. Augustine argues that everyone looks for light somewhere (i.e. they put their trust/hope in something). Where do most Canadians find light?
4. How does the story of Jesus' birth speak good news over and against these "false lights"?
5. Recall the list of names prophesied about Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Which name stands out to you and why?
6. What is the meaning of verse 5? How is it good news?
7. In what ways is this passage already fulfilled? In what ways does it invite us to continue to wait in hope?

Close in prayer

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light had dawned... For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9:2,6

L U

F L

P H O W

R E A E

W W L A D R

C K B S C M

G X P B L Z L I L T M E E Q N E V I G W

Q O L H I S N N C U S I S S E N K R A D

X D A G G A H N S F W G G J T N W O

D P H U I S I S P R N H C O X I

X T L U A A P O I E R T Z S

D S H M B L T R E D R Y

E V T I E S P H Q W N H K

J A S B S A B T R N F R O K

Y H I N N L Z A O U I K O Q W Y

G R A U R T F K I N B H R D

F H I O E N S P Y C Z K A S

C C C V H B E P W O

X W N E C N N B

E O E W

ISAIAH 9
WORDSEARCH

BORN
CHILD
CHRISTMAS
COUNSELOR
DARKNESS
DAWN
EVERLASTING
FATHER
GIVEN
GOD
JESUS
LIGHT
MESSIAH
MIGHTY
PEACE
PRINCE
SON
WALKING
WONDERFUL

Family Focused Ideas: Bringing Light to the Darkness

Experience
Darkness

- Try eating a meal with the light of only one candle (or a couple glow sticks)
- Walk around with a dim flashlight
- Try to clean your room with only a nightlight or flashlight

Reflect on what it is like to live in darkness

Experience
Light

- Name as many things as you can that would be really hard to do in the dark
- Go around your house and count how many lightbulbs you have
- On car trips, count how many houses have Christmas lights

Reflect on what it is like to live with light

What light did Jesus bring to the world? Who does he bring light to? How are you shining light in darkness?