

***Overcoming the Darkness #1***  
***“The Light of God’s Presence”***

## **INTRODUCTION**

The world without God is a very dark place. But He chose to overcome the darkness of this world through the glorious light of His Presence. In this study we will examine the ways in which God has made His presence known to man both in the Old Testament and through the birth of Christ.

***Ice Breaker (Optional):*** What were some of your family’s Christmas traditions growing up and what Christmas traditions do you currently observe?

## **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

### ***1. God’s Presence prophesied***

#### **Q1. Read Isaiah 9:2, 6**

The prophet Isaiah peered through the corridors of time to see the coming Messiah and give us clues about His birth. What child was Isaiah referring to here and how do the names by which he is called reveal the magnitude of this birth?

#### **Q2. Read Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 40:3, 5**

God gave his people many “signposts” pointing to the coming Messiah. In addition to Jesus, who were the two individuals in the New Testament referred to in these verses?

### ***2. Jesus Shows the Full Nature of God***

#### **Q3. Read Exd 40:34-35, John 1:1-2,14**

Where was the dwelling of God in the Old Testament, and where is it now? Pause for a moment to consider what it means for you to be God’s dwelling place, His tabernacle.

*dwel – skēnoō comes from the root skēnos which means a tabernacle*

#### **Q4. Read John 10:30, 14:9b, Colossians 1:15-16a, 17**

In our limited ability to comprehend an infinite God we struggle with the concept of “God incarnate”, Jesus fully God, yet fully human.

Consider how the concise statements in John are expanded upon in Colossians.

### ***3. The Full Truth of God***

#### **Q5. Read John 8:12, John 8:31b-32**

Both of these verses require action. What action is required and what is the result? How are you taking action along these lines in your own life?

### ***4. God’s Presence through the Spirit***

#### **Q6. Read John 14:23, 16:7**

God’s presence did not depart when Jesus died on the cross. How do these verses assure us that our loving God has provided us with His presence?

## **WRAP-UP**

God’s love for us had caused Him to shine the light of His presence into our darkened lives and draw us unto Himself. He was with the children of Israel as they wandered in the desert, He was with us through the life of Christ when Jesus walked the earth, and He is with us today through His Spirit who indwells believers. God’s glorious light will always overcome the darkness if we call upon His name and follow Him.

***Memory Verse:*** 1 John 1:5 (NIV) **This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Challenge: Ask God to reveal someone to you who needs the light of God to overcome darkness, and then pray for them and seek an opportunity to pray with that person face to face.*

## Scripture Verses

### **1. God's Presence Prophesied**

Isa 9:2, 6 NIV - [2] The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ... [6] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 7:14 NIV - [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isa 40:3, 5 NIV - [3] A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ... [5] And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

### **2. Jesus Shows the Full Nature of God**

Exd 40:34-38 NIV - [34] Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. [35] Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

John 1:1-2, 14 NIV - [1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning. ... [14] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jhn 10:30, 14:9b NIV - [30] I and the Father are one."  
9b Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. 14:9b Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

Col 1:15-17 NIV - [15] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. [16] For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. [17] He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

### **3. The Full Truth of God**

Jhn 8:12 NIV - [12] When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jhn 8:31-32 NIV - [31] To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [32] Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

### **4. God's Presence through the Spirit**

Jhn 14:23 NIV - [23] Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Jhn 16:7 NIV - [7] But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

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