

## ***Living in the Light of God's Presence***

- **Day One – Read Colossians 1:15-16a, 17 & 2 Corinthians 4:6.** We clearly see in God's Word that Jesus is uniquely and fully God. What are the common misconceptions about Jesus that minimize or dismiss him in today's culture? How might an "enlightened" understanding of who Jesus really is "lighten up" your life today?

**Pray** and ask God to help you understand who Jesus is and how he wants to reign in your life today as you Lord and King.

- **Day Two – Read John 8:12, 31b-32 & John 1:14.** What does "walking in darkness" look like to you? How might the truth of Jesus set you free today? Why do we have to "obey it," and not just "know it," to really be "set free by it?"

**Pray** and ask God to help you follow Jesus with total trust and obedience. Ask him for the freedom you need in your areas of potential bondage. Ask that you'll not just know the truth, but live in it!

### *family app*

Get in a circle (preferably sitting on the floor) and share the ways that, if you're not careful, you could really miss the true meaning of Christmas this year. Maybe list some of them here:

How might you focus less on Christmas "presents," and more on God's Christmas "presence" this year? Maybe list some of them here:

Close by sharing in a time of prayer together.

New Life Lessons  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Pastor Ron Salisbury

## ***"The Light of God's Presence"***

*Overcoming the Darkness #1*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; John 1:1-5; 8:12; 1 John 4:4b

**Isaiah 9:2, 6a** (NIV) <sup>2</sup> **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**. <sup>6a</sup> For to us **a child is born**, to us **a son is given**.

## ***God's Presence in the Old Testament***

### ***Human Appearances "theophanies"***

Genesis 32:24-30; Judges 6:12; Daniel 3:24-25; Exodus 3:2

### ***Visions & Voices***

Genesis 15:1; 1 Kings 19:11-13; Exodus 33:14; 1 Samuel 3:4

### ***The Tabernacle & the Ark of the Covenant***

Exodus 25:8-11, 17-22

### ***The Glory Cloud of Fire***

Exodus 40:34-38; Leviticus 23:33-44

### ***Within the Worshipping Community***

Psalms 122:1; 132:7-9, 13-16; 133; 134

**Isaiah 40:3, 5** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. <sup>5</sup> And **the glory of the Lord will be revealed**, and **all mankind together will see it**. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**Malachi 4:2** (NIV) <sup>2</sup> The **sun of righteousness** will rise with **healing in its wings**.

**Isaiah 7:14** (NIV) <sup>14</sup> 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**.

## God's Presence in the New Testament

**Matthew 1:21-23** (NLT) <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus (Jeshua), for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Isaiah 7:14

### Jesus, the Light of God's Presence

#### 1. He Shows the Full Nature of God.

**John 1:1-2, 4** (NLT) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. Romans 1:20-22; Acts 17:22-28

**John 10:30, 14:9b** (NIV) <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one. <sup>9b</sup> Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. *heis*  
John 8:19

**2 Corinthians 4:6** (NIV) “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:5-8

**Colossians 1:15-16a, 17** (NLT) <sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, <sup>16a</sup> for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. <sup>17</sup> He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Matthew 26:63b-66; Revelation 22:1,12

#### 2. He Demonstrates the Love of God.

**Romans 5:8** (NIV) <sup>8</sup> God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. John 3:5-7,16; 4:10; 5:6; 8:10-11; 9:1-3; 10:10-11; 13:1-17,34

#### 3. He Teaches the Full Truth of God.

**John 8:28** (NLT) <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I Am he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me.”

**John 8:12** (NIV) “ 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.’”

**John 8:31b-32** (NLT) <sup>31b</sup> You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 14:6; 20:31; 1:14

#### 4. He Reveals the Mysteries of God.

**1 Timothy 3:16** (NIV) <sup>16</sup> Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

**Colossians 1:26-27** (NIV) <sup>26</sup> The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Matthew 6:33; 13:34; 22:1-10; 13:44-46; 24:14; 25:31; 28:20b

#### 5. He is Present by the Spirit of God.

**John 14:23** (NLT) <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. John 14:1-3, 18-20

**John 16:7** (NLT) <sup>7</sup> It is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. *paraklētōs comforter, advocate*

**Matthew 18:20** (NLT) <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” Matthew 28:20b