

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“WAITING FOR THE LIGHT”

For individual study or group discussion

In John 1:6–9, the apostle introduces us to the motif of *light* while echoing Genesis and the creation account, where God speaks light into the darkness (1:1–5). In his prologue, John unites the cosmological and historical strands of the incarnation with the arrival of a witness whose mission is to point beyond himself to the coming “*light of the world*” (8:12). While the people are **waiting for the Light** to arrive, John the Baptist enters the scene, announcing that “*the true light, which gives light to everyone,*” has come into the world (v. 9).

- Revisit John 1:4–5. Discuss how the compressed statement of “*In him was life, and the life was the light of men*” comprehends and magnifies Genesis 1:1–5.

We wait expectantly for the Light who sent witnesses. (vv. 6–8)

John the Baptist stands as the divinely commissioned herald who testifies to the Light so “*that all might believe through him*” (v. 7). His ministry fulfills the promise of Malachi 3:1 that God would send a messenger to prepare the way. God graciously provides witnesses to point us to Christ. As one author states: “*Since our greatest need is to believe in Christ, what a blessing it is that God has sent us witnesses. Such was John the Baptist.*”¹ The Baptist’s witness reveals that God’s Light is approaching, calling humanity “*out of darkness and into his marvelous light*” (1 Peter 2:9).

- What does it look like to wait expectantly while also paying attention to the “*witnesses*” God places in our lives? Who has been a witness in your life?

We wait expectantly for the Light who came into the world. (v. 9)

The Nicene Creed explains that Jesus is “*God of God, Light of Light.*” He is the radiance of the Father’s glory (Hebrews 1:3). His incarnation fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy that “*those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone*” (Isaiah 9:2). God’s Light not only reveals but transforms, delivering believers “*from the domain of darkness*” into the Kingdom of the Son (Colossians 1:12–14). Advent is a reminder to “*cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light*” because his return is at hand (Romans 13:11–14).

- The Nicene Creed confesses Jesus as “*God of God, Light of Light.*” Read Hebrews 1:1–4. How does recognizing Christ as the very radiance of God shape the way we understand his incarnation? How should this deepen our sense of awe, worship, and expectation during Advent?
- In 2 Corinthians 4:6 and Revelation 21:23, both Paul and John compel us to recognize God’s creational design concerning darkness and light. Discuss how creation culminates in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

To wait for the Light is to stand in the tension between the first creation and the new creation, recognizing that the same God who once said, “*Let light shine out of darkness*” now pierces the darkness of sin and death (2 Corinthians 4:6). The Gospel of John points us to the One who has come and will come again, the Light no darkness can overcome (v. 5). For those who receive Christ, the promise of Revelation 21 awaits: a world where the Lamb is our eternal lamp and night is no more. Thus, we wait not in uncertainty but in hope-filled expectation for the Life and Light to come again. A hope that looks back at Advent in order to look forward.

DATE: December 7, 2025

SPEAKER: Chad/Wil

SERIES: Advent 2025

PASSAGE: John 1:6–9

Family Dinner Table

God of God, Light of Light

Imagine you’re waiting for the sun to rise on a dark morning. Everything is quiet, and you can’t see very far, but you know the light is coming. That’s a little like what John the Baptist did in John 1:6–9. God sent him to point ahead and say, “*Get ready! The Light is on the way!*” John wasn’t the light himself; he was more like a flashlight showing people where to look. Then Jesus came, the *true Light* who gives light to everyone (v. 9). The Nicene Creed tells us something amazing about him: Jesus is “*God of God*” and “*Light of Light.*” That means he shines with the very same light as God the Father. Just like one candle can light another without losing any of its brightness, Jesus is fully God, sharing the same perfect, heavenly light. When Jesus came into the world, it was like the sun finally rising: bright, warm, and full of life. Jesus shows us who God is (John 12:45), guides our steps (Proverbs 16:9), and pushes away the darkness of sin and fear (John 8:12). So, as we wait for him this Advent season, we look forward to the day when the Lord will be our light and glory.

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:6. Paul says that God shines his light in our hearts so we can see his glory in Jesus. What are some ways you can help others see Jesus’ light, just like John the Baptist helped people look for the Christ?
- You can read the Nicene Creed [here](#).

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries, *denominational partner ministry*

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Neal and Debbie, *launching a church planting team in Central Asia with MTW*

¹ Phillips, Richard. *8 Witnesses to Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah*. July 9, 2021. Ligonier.org. <https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/8-witnesses-jesus-son-god-and-messiah>