

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of December 8, 2024

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Brian kicked off a brand new series entitled *Traditions*. In his message, he used the theme of Christmas lights to illustrate Jesus as the true light who came to "punch holes in the darkness," fulfilling prophecies and bringing salvation to the world. Stories such as Simeon's recognition of Jesus in Luke 2:29-32 and the account of the woman caught in adultery (John 8) underscore Jesus' role in offering forgiveness and calling for transformation. Pastor Brian shared the ongoing relevance of God's Word (Psalm 119:105) and Jesus' light to lead and protect, especially in a world where spiritual darkness often disguises itself as light. He concluded by challenging us to reflect Jesus' light in our own lives, spreading hope and truth as described in Matthew 5:16.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read John 1:1-9*

What does it mean for Jesus to be the "true light"? How does this understanding impact the way you view Him during the Christmas season?

3. *Read John 8:12*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." How has following Jesus helped you navigate spiritual darkness or personal struggles in your life? Share your experience with the group.

4. *Read Isaiah 9:2; 7*

This prophecy speaks of a great light coming into the world. How does this promise of hope resonate with you today, especially during times of uncertainty or fear?

5. *Read Matthew 5:16*

In what ways can you let your light shine before others this Christmas season? Share specific actions or attitudes that reflect Jesus' light.

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: "Hey ____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?"

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):