

Christmas often involves reciprocal gift-giving, God gives us the gift of Jesus in a completely one-sided act of grace. We bring Him our “bad gifts”—our sin, fear, grief, and confusion—and in return He gives us His light, hope, and redemption. Scripture reveals that darkness is a real part of human experience, yet Jesus enters that darkness as the promised Light. Through Him we are rescued, transferred into His kingdom, and forgiven. When we bring our darkness to Jesus, He gives us clarity, courage, and hope, and enables us to reflect His light to the world.

Read John 8:12 and Romans 13:12

1. Have you ever received a gift that felt mismatched, unwanted, or surprising?
2. How does this help you understand the idea that God asks us to give Him our “bad gifts” (sin, fear, grief) in exchange for His good gifts?
3. How is God’s giving fundamentally different from our typical reciprocal giving?
4. Darkness is “an unwelcome reality woven into the human experience.” How would describe darkness from a biblical viewpoint?
5. In what ways does sin distort or deceive in our daily lives?

6. **Read Isaiah 9:2.** What does it mean that the people “walking in darkness” saw a great light—rather than people who “escaped” darkness? Why is this distinction important?
7. **Read Luke 2:25–35.** What kind of “darkness” do you see in Israel at that time? How does Simeon’s faith challenge or encourage you?
8. When Simeon sees Jesus, he declares that this child is “a light for revelation.” How would you describe the role of Jesus as Light in your own life?
9. Is there an area of your life where you sense you are still “waiting in the dark”? What do you think Jesus is doing in that waiting?
10. **Read Colossians 1:13–14.** What words or phrases stand out to you about what we receive through Jesus?
11. There are four things we receive from Jesus’ light. Hope, Clarity, Courage and A calling to be light. Which one do you need more of in your Christian walk at this present moment?

Prayer Points

Please pray for the preparations and opportunities over Christmas to share the gospel, help those in need and encourage others. Pray for the ministry teams and volunteers as people serve during a busy period.

Pray for the partnerships that BMS World Mission is developing with churches and organisations in north east India. Pray that they will result in effective mission outreach to unreached regions of India.

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If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



BIBLE STUDY

December 7th 2025

Advent:

Darkness and Light

Advent is a season rich with meaning, inviting Christians to reflect on the four central themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare for Christ's coming. Hope reminds us that God keeps His promises, just as He did in sending the long-awaited Messiah. It encourages us to trust Him in our own seasons of waiting. Peace calls us to rest in God's presence and seek reconciliation, knowing that Christ, the Prince of Peace, brings wholeness to our world and our hearts. Joy invites us to celebrate God's nearness—deeper than simple happiness, it grows from the truth that God is with us. Love crowns the season, reflecting God's decision to enter the world in humility for our redemption. These themes together shape Advent as a time to slow down, reflect, and renew our anticipation for Christ's birth and His promised return.