

STUDY GUIDE

LIGHT OF THE WORLD 12.14.14

[set up]

If you could only keep one of your Christmas traditions, which one would you keep and why?

What were some of the Christmas traditions from Mexico and EL Salvador that stood out to you or surprised you the most?

Are there any that you would consider trying as part of your family's Christmas plans?

[digging deeper]

Last Sunday we went through John 1:6-13. Take some time and read through this passage. When it comes to Jesus, the Light of the World, we can choose to: Reject Him (1:11), Receive Him (1:12), or Reflect Him (1:7,8).

How do you best understand John 1:10-11 explaining how Christ came and was rejected? How is that still true today?

How does someone receive the Light and how does their identity and nature change?

After someone has received the Light, what starts to happen naturally? Can you give an example?

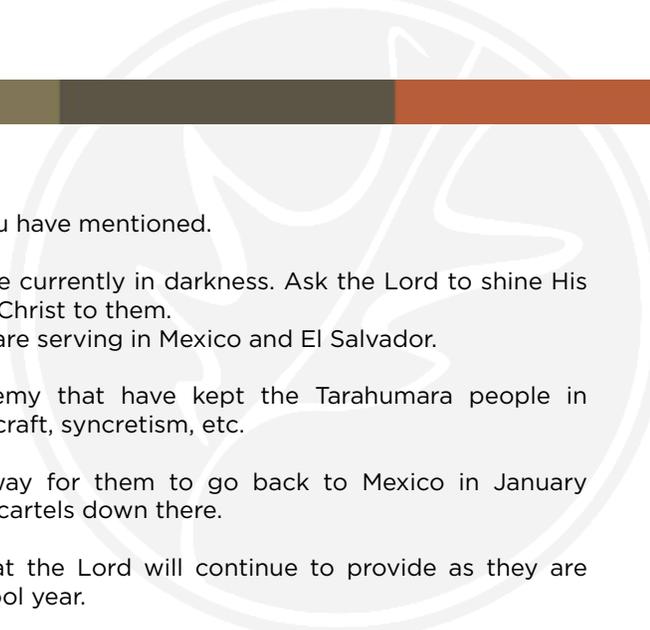
Get into three Groups and split up Romans chapter 9. One group take Rom. 9:1-13, one take Rom. 9:14-21 and one take Rom. 9:22-29. In your group look for and highlight the verses that seem like a connect to John 1:6-13. After 15 minutes, get back together and share the verses that stood out to you and how they give deeper understanding to the John 1 passage.

We see that the main purpose of John the Baptist's life was, "to bear witness about the Light". How in our daily life can we witness (reflect) the Light of Christ in this dark world, especially in our efforts to be a LifeHouse in our neighborhoods and our call to invite people to new life in Christ?

[living it out]

Have you received a "Light of the World" ornament yet and prayed for the countries as you placed it on your tree? Remember to pray for Mexico and El Salvador this week. You can even gather by the Christmas tree in your location and pray for these countries before leaving.

Pair up and share with your partner at least one person in your circle of influence that you are especially burdened about because they are living in the dark, and write those names down to help remind yourself who they are. After you have that person in mind, write down several tangible ways you can shine the light of Christ into their darkness - especially right now during this Christmas season.



Close your time in prayer with your partner, praying over the people you have mentioned.

1. Pray for the people that were mentioned by the group who are currently in darkness. Ask the Lord to shine His light into their lives, and to use you to share about the Light of Christ to them.
2. Pray for the missionaries that were mentioned on Sunday who are serving in Mexico and El Salvador.
 - Beto Ramirez - Pray against the strongholds of the enemy that have kept the Tarahumara people in darkness and in slavery for centuries, such as alcoholism, witchcraft, syncretism, etc.
 - The Kramer Family - Pray that the Lord will pave the way for them to go back to Mexico in January and for their safety with the increase of violence with the drug cartels down there.
 - Rachel Sanson at Love & Hope Children's Home - Pray that the Lord will continue to provide as they are trying to raise money for the children's tuition for the 2015 school year.

To find out more about the Mexico and El Salvador mission efforts you can visit the following links:

Mexico Medical Missions:

<http://www.mexicomedical.org/aboutus.html#bookmark1>

Kramer Family Blog

<http://ekramerfamily.blogspot.com/search?updated-min=2014-01-01T00:00:00-07:00&updated-max=2015-01-01T00:00:00-07:00&max-results=5>

Love and Hope Children's Home

<http://www.loveandhopechildrenshome.com/>