

ADVENT · CREATION

Let There Be Light

Genesis 1:1–5

The Big Idea

Through Jesus, the God who said "Let there be light" shines into our darkness and sends us out to carry his light.

The Problem Darkness	The Presence The Spirit Hovering
The Power God Speaks Light	The Pattern Evening then Morning

SUNDAY · Scripture & Devotion

Genesis 1:1–5

Have you ever been home when the power went out at night? Everything you knew was suddenly hidden. You couldn't find the couch, the door, or even your own hand. You probably did what everyone does: you stood still and waited for light. That's what the world was like before God spoke.

The Problem: Darkness (Genesis 1:2)

Before God made anything, the world was "without form and void." No shape, no color, no life, no light. We live in the most lit-up age in history, with screens in every pocket and lights on every street. Yet many of us still feel that darkness inside: anxious, lonely, stuck, or far from God. The Bible says that darkness is more than a feeling. Our sin has left us unable to see God clearly and unable to find our own way home.

The Presence: The Spirit Hovering (Genesis 1:2)

God did not leave the darkness alone. "The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Moses uses the same word for an eagle fluttering over its young (Deuteronomy 32:11). Picture a parent leaning over a crib in a dark room. Before God changed anything, he was already there. When life feels dark for you, God is closer than you think.

The Power: God Speaks Light (Genesis 1:3–4)

God didn't fight the darkness or work hard to beat it. He spoke four words, "Let there be light," and there was light. Here's something surprising: God made light on day one but didn't make the sun until day four (Genesis 1:14–16). The first light in the world came from God

himself. “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). He doesn’t just turn on the light. He is the light. And that same God still speaks light into dark hearts. That’s why Jesus came at Christmas. He stepped into our darkness, died for our sins, and rose again. When we trust him, he turns the light on inside us.

The Pattern: Evening, Then Morning (Genesis 1:5)

Look at the order: “There was evening and there was morning, the first day.” In the Bible, a day starts at sundown, not sunrise. God’s days begin in the dark and move toward the light. When Jesus died, darkness covered the land (Luke 23:44). But very early on Sunday morning, the tomb was empty. With God, the dark is never the end of the story.

If you’re in an “evening” season right now, here is your hope for this week:

In God’s story, the dark is where the day begins.

Talk About It

- When have you been in real darkness, like a power outage or a night hike? How did it change the way you moved and what you paid attention to?

- Before anything changed, the Spirit was hovering over the darkness. Where in your life do you most need to know God is close right now?
- "The dark is where the day begins." Is that hard for you to believe right now? Why or why not?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Option 1: Lights-Out Dinner

Pick one evening this week for dinner with no screens and no overhead lights, only candles. Before you eat, read Genesis 1:1–5 out loud. During dinner, go around the table twice. First, everyone shares one "evening" they're facing right now: school, work, friendships, a worry. Second, everyone shares a time God brought "morning" after a hard season. Parents go first and set the tone for honesty. Close by praying for each person's "evening" by name.

Option 2: Plan a Light Mission

As a family, choose one of the 42 families or someone you know who is in a dark season. Give everyone a real job. Teens can own the budget, the shopping list, or a meal they'll cook. Younger kids can write cards or wrap gifts. Parents handle the schedule and delivery. Put it on the calendar for the next two weeks and do it

together. Afterward, talk about what you saw and what it was like to bring someone light.

God didn't stay distant from the dark, and he doesn't leave us there either. Through Jesus the light is on, and he sends our family to carry it to others.

THIS WEEK'S LIGHT STEP: As a family, choose how you'll share the light: adopt one of the 42 families, or write the name of one person you'll invite to Christmas Eve on December 24:



Daily Reflections

MONDAY · In the Dark

Read Genesis 1:2 and Psalm 139:11–12. Most of us have a dark place we keep hidden: a fear, a habit, a hurt we don't talk about. God already sees it, and he isn't backing away.

> **Reflect**
> What is one area of your life you'd rather keep in the dark? Why have you kept it hidden, and what would it look like to bring it to God today?

TUESDAY · God Speaks

Read Genesis 1:3 and Hebrews 11:3. The Bible says one God spoke, and his words alone created everything. But plenty of other voices speak over us too: social media, past mistakes, someone's harsh words, our own inner critic.

> **Reflect**
> Whose voice has been loudest in your head lately, and what has it been telling you? What does God's Word say about you that you need to believe instead?

WEDNESDAY · The First Light

Read Genesis 1:14–16 and Revelation 21:23. Light came on day one, but the sun came on day four, and heaven won't need the sun at all, "for the glory of God gives it light." It's easy to look for light from things God made instead of from God himself: a relationship, success, approval, comfort. Those are good gifts, but they were never meant to be our source.

> **Reflect**
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> Where do you usually go for comfort or worth when life feels dark? What happens when that thing lets you down? What would it look like to go to God first this week?

THURSDAY · Evening, Then Morning

Read Genesis 1:5, Luke 23:44, and Mark 16:2. The sky went dark when Jesus died. But "very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen," the women found the tomb empty. Friday felt like the end. It was really the evening before the best morning in history.

> **Reflect**
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> Name one "evening" you're in right now. Be honest: do you believe God can bring morning there, or are you quietly expecting it to stay dark? What is one step of trust you could take while you wait?

FRIDAY · Share the Light

Read Genesis 1:27 and Matthew 5:14–16. God made us in his image, and Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." Light isn't meant to be hidden.

Pray for someone you know who is in a dark season. Ask God to shine on them the way he did on day one, and to use your family to bring them light.

Family prayer: "*God, thank you that you are the light. Thank you for sending Jesus into our darkness. Shine in our hearts this week, and help us share your light with someone who needs it. Amen.*"

