



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### We Have Seen the Light February 23, 2020

2 Corinthians 4:5–6 <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

1. Tell the group about the deepest, densest darkness you have ever experienced. Where were you? How did you feel? What did you do?
2. "As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain, since he toils for the wind? All his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger." (Ecclesiastes 5:16-17). The man who wrote these words was the wisest, richest man who has ever lived on earth, King Solomon of Israel. Why would he have felt this way? Have you had similar feelings? If so, when and why?
3. Why did Paul refuse to "preach" himself as the solution to his reader's problems? (Hint: Consider the source of all trouble.) What lesson can we learn from Paul?

4. The Bible describes hell as a place of "...darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." What's the cause of... 1) the darkness? 2) the weeping? 3) the gnashing of teeth?
5. Paul preached "Jesus Christ as Lord." Explain the significance of this title, "Lord."
6. Rather than "Lord," Paul and his companions preached that they were "servants for Jesus' sake." What was the nature and purpose of their servitude? Whose servant are you?
7. Peter, James, John, and Paul got to see Jesus' glory as a shining bright light. God reveals his glory to us in the face, that is, in the person of his Son. Explain how you experience this glory in Word and Sacrament when you are 1) burdened by your sin; 2) when you are feeling pain and loss; 3) when you are feeling frightened and alone.
8. How might the light of God's love grow dim within us? What can we do to make sure this doesn't happen? How can we help one another in this regard?