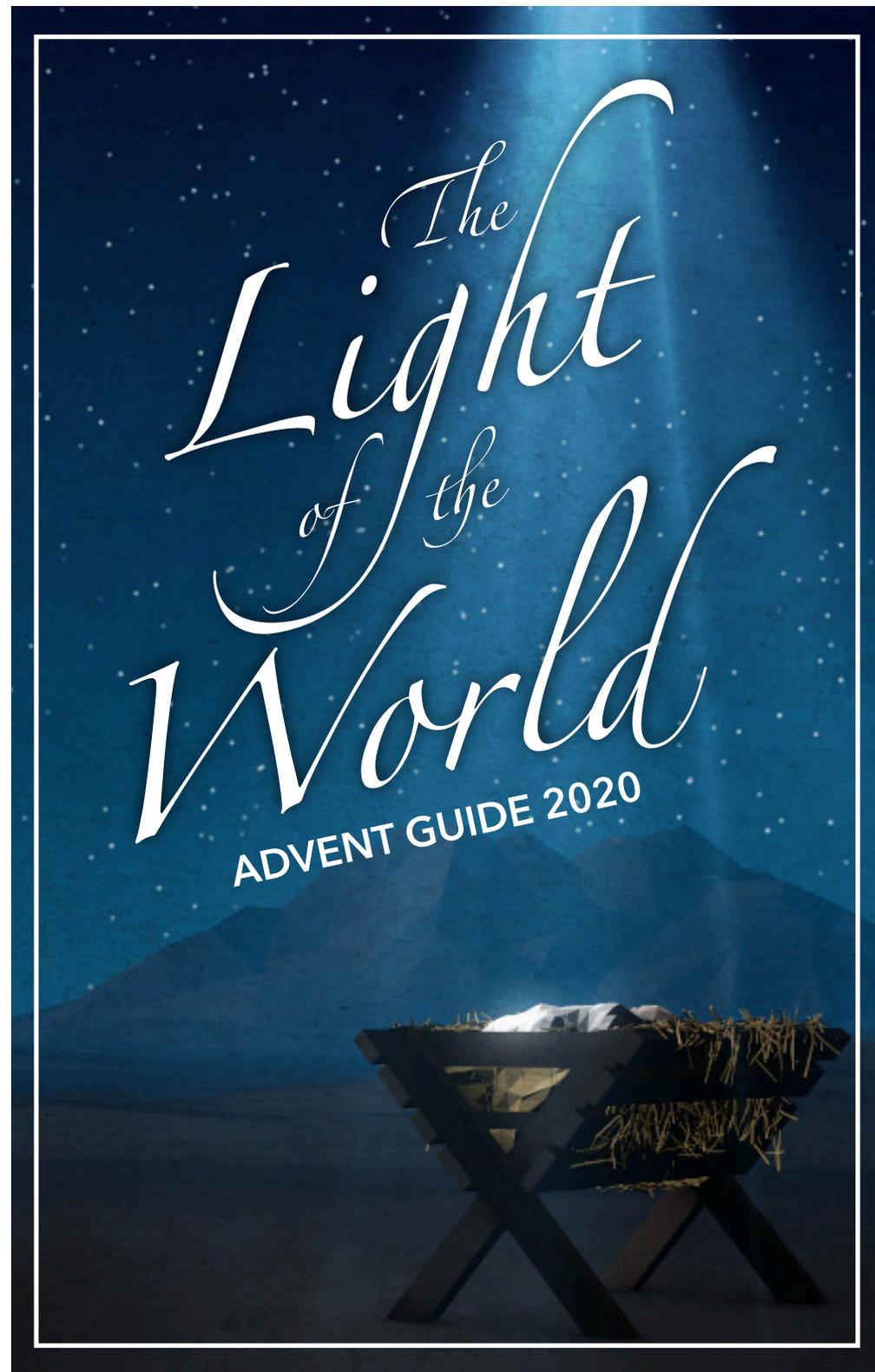




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[God] says to [the Servant of the Lord]

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to bring back the preserved of Israel;

I will make you as a light for the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

(Isaiah 49:6)

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God!"

(Revelation 19:1)

Begin your mealtime prayer with:

We bless you Lord God, because you have saved us. Forgive us for our greed and fears. As our eyes look on Jesus, we see our peace, our salvation, our God! He is the light of the world! As we follow him by your Holy Spirit, fill us with the joy and peace that come from your salvation.

The Light of Salvation

Christmas

Verses for Reflection:

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, USE THIS VERSE:

[Simeon] took [baby Jesus] up in his arms and blessed God and said,
²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."
(Luke 2:28-32)

IN DAYS FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS USE THESE:

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
(Psalm 27:1)

Introduction

A promise is only as good as the one who makes it. Because we have been let down so many times, it can be difficult to trust promises.

But we need a promise of something better ahead. This year took a heavy toll on us. It opened our eyes to the fog we've lived in for so long and made life feel quite dim...dull...and dark.

During Advent, we remember all the promises God made in the Old Testament. He promised to draw near to his people and save them. He promised the Messiah (the Christ) would come and shine with God's light of glory, light of righteousness, light of truth, light of life, and light of salvation into our dark world.

God kept all those promises in Jesus.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Journey with your church through the promises of God. Invite the people in your life to take this journey with you.

In this package you will find several resources to help you lead your family and friends and yourself.

- This **Devotional guide** contains short prayers that you can pray at each dinner. See page 5 for instructions on leading this time of fellowship.
- **Candles** symbolize Jesus at the centre of our lives and community. Make the wreath with your friends or family. Light the candles at each meal.
 - Week 1 - Yellow - The light of Glory
 - Week 2 - Red - The light of Righteousness
 - Week 3 - Blue - The light of Truth
 - Week 4 - Green - The light of Life
 - Christmas - White - The light of Salvation
- **Christmas cards** will allow you to share the light of God with your neighbours or family.
- An invitation to **RightNow Media** which is our church's gift to you and people in your life to encourage you with your extra time at home.

May the light of God in Jesus shine your hearts by his Holy Spirit as you fellowship around the table in your homes.

- Pastor Alex Hogendoorn

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel
(2 Timothy 1:8-10)

Begin your mealtime prayer with:

God, you are our creator and the giver of life. Forgive us for wandering far from you and participating in things that harm us and bring us death. In Jesus you showed us eternal life because he is life. He is the light of the world! As we follow him by your Holy Spirit, may your life abound in us—healing us and others.

The Light of Life

Week 4

Verses for Reflection:

He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit,
and my life shall look upon the light.
(Job 33:28)

⁷ How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.
(Psalm 36:7-9)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
(John 1:1-5)

Prayers for Mealtimes

At each dinner, **read one of the verses** and **pause** for a moment in silence to allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate that word to you.

Light the appropriate candle(s). On week one, light only the first. On week two, light the first and second. (Don't burn them too long or the yellow candle will not make it to Christmas!)

Begin your prayer with the prayer provided for the week. Continue praying as you normally would.

The Light of Glory

Week 1

Verses for Reflection:

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
(Isaiah 60:1-3)

The sun shall be no more
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give you light;
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
(Isaiah 60:19)

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of
darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light
of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face
of Jesus Christ.
(2 Corinthians 4:6)

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we
walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the
truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the
light, we have fellowship with one another, and
the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
(1 John 1:6-7)

Begin your mealtime prayer with:

God, we trust you because you have told us the
truth. Forgive us for telling lies and believing lies.
The light of your truth shone perfectly in your Son
Jesus. He is the light of the world! As we follow
him by your Holy Spirit, may live in the truth.

The Light of Truth

Week 3

Verses for Reflection:

³ Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!

⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.

(Psalm 43:3-4)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to keep your righteous rules.

(Psalm 119:105-106)

And the Word [*God the Son*] became flesh and
dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory
as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace
and truth.

(John 1:14)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the
first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city,
new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from
God, prepared as a bride adorned for her
husband... ²³ And the city has no need of sun or
moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it
light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will
the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will
bring their glory into it
(Revelation 21:1-2, 23-24)

Begin your mealtime prayer with:

Our great God and Saviour, you are glorious and
amazing. Forgive us for being so proud and trying
to build our own glory. You revealed your glory to
us when you sent us your Son Jesus. He is the
light of the world! As we follow him by your Holy
Spirit, may your glory shine in us and through us.

The Light of Righteousness

Week 2

Verses for Reflection:

Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
(Psalm 112:4)

I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations
(Isaiah 42:6)

⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

⁷ All worshipers of images are put to shame,
who make their boast in worthless idols;
worship him, all you gods!
(Psalm 97:6-7)

³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of
God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,
“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”
(Revelation 15:3-4)

Begin your mealtime prayer with:

God you are holy, and all you do is righteous and
just. Forgive us for being going astray and
disobeying you. You showed us your
righteousness perfectly when you sent us your
Son Jesus. He is the light of the world! As we
follow him by your Holy Spirit, make us more
righteousness for your name's sake.