

SERMON SERIES: For Unto Us

SPEAKER: Ryan Lingbloom

DATE: December 22, 2024

Sermon Title

“God Through Us”

Introduction

This week we finished our Christmas series titled “For Unto Us”. In Isaiah chapter 9, we are told that Jesus would come as a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. But the first words of that verse tell us, “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given...” Throughout this series, we leaned in and discovered together the difference it can make in our lives when we understand how the baby who *came to be with* us became the man who *died for* us, so that His light could *shine through* us. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- If you’re meeting before Christmas, share with the group what you are looking forward to the most this Christmas.
- If you’re meeting after Christmas, have everyone in the group share the most memorable part of their Christmas celebration.

Seek the Word

Read John 1:1-5 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does it mean that Jesus is the “light for all mankind”? How does this light shine in the darkness?
- Why is Jesus’ place at the beginning of creation so important to our understanding of His role as that light?

Read John 8:12 and Matthew 5:14-16 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- Why did Jesus say *He* is the light of the world, but also call us, his church, the light of the world?
- What is the relationship between Jesus’ light and how we live our lives?

Read Isaiah 9:6 aloud, then answer the question below:

- Now that we have finished this series themed around this verse, what about your understanding/appreciation of this verse has changed or deepened since the start?

Go Deeper

We learned that there are three distinct ways in which we let our light shine (and reflect the light of Jesus).

- 1: Through our Love
- 2: Through our Kindness
- 3: Through our Words

Looking at these things, which do you struggle with the most? Do you find it hard to love people that are outside of your circle? Do you struggle with showing intentional kindness? Are your words life-giving or life-stealing? Take some time to truthfully evaluate what you need God to work on in you, and then pray that He would this week.

Talk About It

In the sermon this week, three important questions were asked in regards to living as reflectors of God's light in the darkness of the world. Take some time to think through these questions and come up with answers that are both true and tangible for effective life change.

- What has God given you (gifts, skills, callings) to reflect His light?
- Where are you at, and where are you going, that needs His light?
- Who are you with that needs His light?

Having answered these questions, now put it into practice. The *Challenge* this week is all about reflecting God's light to those people in those places with what God has given you.

Wrap Up

Reminder: T

Challenge: Identify one person in your life who needs to experience the light of Christ. This week, reach out to them with an act of kindness, an encouraging word, or (if reading this before the 23rd and 24th) an invitation to a Christmas Eve service!

Prayer: Close your group time by praying for each other to be filled with the light of Christ. Ask God to help you reflect His love, kindness, and truth in your interactions this week. Pray for boldness to invite others to experience His light and for hearts to be opened to receive the message of Jesus and His Gospel.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.