

Sermon Title: The Best Light Display Ever!

What is your family's favorite Christmas Tradition?

One of my favorite traditions is going to different places to look at **Christmas lights**.

I asked myself the question, I wonder where the tradition started of Christmas Lights?

- It started in Germany in the 17th Century and became more of a widespread tradition over the next 200 years.
- The tradition started with candles actually and not light bulbs.

But we know that lights were a part of Christmas long before the 17th Century in Germany, and tonight I want us to see that there not only is beauty in Christmas light displays, but that we are also called to be displays of light.

Matthew 5:14-16

Why did Jesus say that we are to let our light shine before others?

- The concept of light shining forth from God the Father had been around for hundreds of years before Jesus even walked on the earth.
- Psalm 18:28, Psalm 27:1, and Micah 7:8

When Jesus wanted people to know that he was both the Son of God, and God himself, he used the same **metaphor** to let people know, but to not be too obvious.

- John 8:12, **John 1:1-5**

John in those 5 verses was teaching us so much about Jesus:

- Jesus is coeternal with God the Father
- Jesus was present at the creation of our world
- Jesus is God's light in the world
- Jesus will be victorious

We know that God is the source of light in this world, and that Jesus came to earth to physically bring that light to us, **now it is our responsibility to shine that light of Jesus through our lives into a world that is dark and sinful**.

How do we practically shine Jesus' light in our world?

1. The more lights the better!
 - a. For our analogy for tonight that to me means that if we want to shine bright for God in our dark world, we shouldn't be trying to do it alone.
2. No light display will ever shine without a **power source**.
 - a. Lights don't work unless they are plugged into a power source or the power switch is on.
 - b. This is going to take some effort
 - i. It takes intentionality, choosing not to sleep in on Sunday Mornings, and choosing to shine when around other people.
 - c. How do I stay plugged in to God our power source?
 - i. regularly attend worship, daily read your Bible and pray, stay connected to other Christians and talk about the things of the faith, and attend Bible studies and serve other people
3. If one light goes out, **all** the lights go out.
 - a. It'll take some effort, but we need to take care of one another.
 - b. Go deeper with people than just surface conversation, to really see how they are feeling.

Challenges:

- **2 Corinthians 4:6, 1 Peter 2:9**
 - Instead of me challenging you I wanted to start with Paul and Peter's challenges.
- My main challenge is to shine the light of Jesus Christ wherever you are.
 - Remember we shine God's light by doing good things for others, by displaying love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control no matter what we are feeling like on the inside.
 - **We shine by speaking life into the darkness**, and by resisting the messages of the world

But no matter what time of the year it is, God has called us to be a light in the darkness, so please put forth the effort you need to stay plugged in and connected, and shine God's light into the dark world around us all year long!

Sermon Title: The Best Light Display Ever!

What is your family's favorite Christmas Tradition?

One of my favorite traditions is going to different places to look at _____.

I asked myself the question, I wonder where the tradition started of Christmas Lights?

- It started in Germany in the 17th Century, and became more of a widespread tradition over the next 200 years.
- The tradition started with candles actually and not light bulbs.

But we know that lights were a part of Christmas long before the 17th Century in Germany, and tonight I want us to see that there not only is beauty in Christmas light displays, but that we are also called to be displays of light.

Matthew 5:14-16

Why did Jesus say that we are to let our let shine before others?

- The concept of light shining forth from God the Father had been around for hundreds of years before Jesus even walked on the earth.
- Psalm 18:28, Psalm 27:1, and Micah 7:8

When Jesus wanted people to know that he was both the Son of God, and God himself, he used the same _____ to let people know, but to not be too obvious.

- John 8:12, **John 1:1-5**

John in those 5 verses was teaching us so much about Jesus:

- Jesus is coeternal with God the Father
- Jesus was present at the creation of our world
- Jesus is God's light in the world
- Jesus will be victorious

We know that God is the source of light in this world, and that Jesus came to earth to physically bring that light to us, now it is our responsibility to shine that light of Jesus through our lives into a world that is _____.

How do we practically shine Jesus' light in our world?

1. The more lights the better!
 - a. For our analogy for tonight that to me means that if we want to shine bright for God in our dark world, we shouldn't be trying to do it alone.
2. No light display will ever shine without a _____
 - a. Lights don't work unless they are plugged into a power source or the power switch is on.
 - b. This is going to take some effort
 - i. It takes intentionality, choosing not to sleep in on Sunday Mornings, and choosing to shine when around other people.
 - c. How do I stay plugged in to God our power source?
 - i. regularly attend worship, daily read your Bible and pray, stay connected to other Christians and talk about the things of the faith, and attend Bible studies and serve other people
3. If one light goes out, _____ the lights go out.
 - a. It'll take some effort, but we need to take care of one another.
 - b. Go deeper with people than just surface conversation, to really see how they are feeling.

Challenges:

- **2 Corinthians 4:6, 1 Peter 2:9**
 - Instead of me challenging you I wanted to start with Paul and Peter's challenges.
- My main challenge is to shine the light of Jesus Christ wherever you are.
 - Remember we shine God's light by doing good things for others, by displaying love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control no matter what we are feeling like on the inside.
 - We shine by speaking _____ into the darkness, and by resisting the messages of the world

But no matter what time of the year it is, God has called us to be a light in the darkness, so please put forth the effort you need to stay plugged in and connected, and shine God's light into the dark world around us all year long!

Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Matthew 5:14-16 - “¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

John 1:1-5 - “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 anything 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.”

2 Corinthians 4:6 “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 God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”