

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“Reflecting God’s Glory”

For individual study or group discussion

As we begin our study of Isaiah 60, it is still nighttime. When we left chapter 59, the people of God are covered in darkness and bowed down low because of their sins. They are in a stupor, as it were, unable to wake themselves. The prophet Isaiah enters into this darkness with the announcement, “*Arise, shine, for your light has come*” (v. 1), in order to wake-up the people of God with the news that the gloom of midnight is over.

- Look closely at vv. 1-3. From where does this sun rise which will light up the darkness?
- How are we to reflect this light and shine so that others may come to Christ? See also Matthew 5:14, 1 Peter 2:12, and Philippians 2:15.
- Note that a great immigration is prophesied (v. 3) where all nations are drawn to the light of God’s kingdom. Refer to Revelation 21:22-27 as well as today’s passage. Who will come to the New Jerusalem?
- The U.S. Immigration website states, “When people leave their country to settle permanently in another, they are called migrants or immigrants.” How are we “migrants or immigrants” in God’s kingdom? (See Colossians 1:12-14.)

“Light” is a common theme used throughout Scripture—from the creation account all the way through to the book of Revelation.

- Why do you think “light” is a common metaphor in the Bible?
- Read and compare Genesis 1:16-17 to Revelation 21:23. God created the sun, moon, and stars to bring light and life to the earth, but we see that in the new heavens and earth, their light will no longer be necessary. Why?

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).

- Using a concordance ([online version](#)), during your devotions this week, find other references to Jesus as “light”. Based on your research, what did Jesus mean when he said, “I am the light of the world”?

You have probably recited the *Nicene Creed*, one of the early church’s confessions written in the 4th century as a response to the Arian controversy, which denied the true divinity of Christ. The first part of the creed states:

*I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds:
God of God, **Light of Light**, very God of very God,
begotten, not made;*

- What does this statement tell us about the Father and the Son?
- For further study this week, read the first chapter of Hebrews and consider how God’s glory is revealed to us in his Son.

DATE: October 17

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Isaiah

PASSAGE: Isaiah 60:1-3

Family Dinner Table

Through our study of Isaiah, we take comfort knowing that, even in darkness, we are not without hope. Have you read J.R.R. Tolkien’s epic tale, *The Lord of the Rings*? If you have, you’re probably familiar with the darkness Frodo and Sam encountered on their quest to destroy the ring at Mount Doom. There were moments during their journey when all hope seemed lost.

At one point in the story, when the hobbits see the dreadful plains of Gorgoroth before them, their faith falters at the thought of crossing into Mordor, leading them into even more danger. Warily, Sam looks up into the night sky and draws hope from a star he sees over the Ephel Duath: “*There, peeping among the cloud-wrack above a dark tor high up in the mountains, Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while. The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land, and hope returned to him. For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach.*”

- Discuss as a family how this study of Isaiah has brought you hope as you look to God’s promises of rescue and renewal.

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Peter and Joanna Vaughn,
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