

Part 1 The Light Has Come

John 1:1-5

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

God's plan from the **BEGINNING** (v. 1-3)

Jesus was there Colossians 1:15; John 17:5; 8:58

Jesus is God & Creator Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Psalm 33:6

was to send **JESUS**—the **LIGHT**— (v. 4)

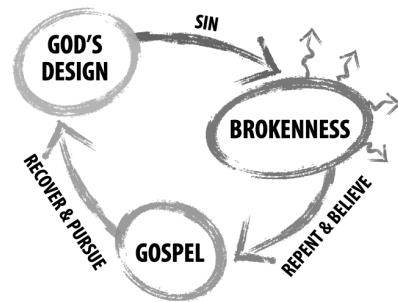
↓ **Jesus is life** John 1:14; 14:6; 5:26; 11:25; 1 John 1:1-2

Jesus is light John 8:12; 1:9, 18; 1 John 1:5; Psalm 36:9

to overcome our **DARKNESS**. (v. 5)

we're all in darkness John 3:19

↑ **Jesus is our rescue** John 12:46



Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!
Text "**CONVERSATION**" to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.
You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Gospel Conversations

Part of our
Enduring Reach vision is:

*By 2030 the people of
Wawasee Bible will engage in
10,000 Gospel Conversations*

So what is a "Gospel Conversation"?

First of all, by 10,000 we do not mean 10,000 people, but *conversations*.

A Gospel Conversation is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with someone in need of knowing of his love and grace.

A conversation that points to Jesus as the hero and gives testimony to his grace, as well as our own need for it, counts as a Gospel Conversation.

Here's three (of many!) types of Gospel Conversations:

1. I share with someone what Jesus is doing in my life *today*. Maybe something good, maybe bringing me through a hard time, maybe a point from Sunday's message that hit me, etc.
2. I share with someone my story of putting my faith in Christ.
3. I share the truth of the Gospel, and encourage them to believe it themselves.

Remember the key is to love. **We're loved by Jesus, and so we're sent by Jesus to love others and invite them to follow him with us.**

We'll share more soon, including some ideas to help you spark Gospel Conversations with the people God has sent *you* to!

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. Which language would you like to speak fluently?
2. If you didn't have to worry about money, what would you do with your life?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.

1. As we kick off our Advent Series, "Bright Light", in John 1, where would **you** be most likely to start when telling the Christmas story? (For example, John starts before creation... Matthew starts with a genealogy... etc.)
2. In **Mark 8:27-29** Jesus asks his disciples the following million-dollar question (read below). As you think about your faith journey, what would be your response to Jesus's question if he were to ask that to *you*... *today*?

- **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
- **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

²⁷ And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"²⁸ And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."²⁹ And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." **MARK 8:27-29 (ESV)**

- What do you think your response would have been to Jesus's question when you were a child? — Or before you became a Jesus follower?

3. Pastor Josh spent some time looking at **Colossians 1:15-17** this weekend. Go back and read it with your group. What's something about Jesus that you read there, but don't consider or think about that often?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible "home", we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for John 1:1-5 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹ In the **beginning** the Word **already existed**. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He **existed** in the **beginning** with God. ³ God **created everything** through him, and **nothing** was **created** except through him. ⁴ The Word **gave life** to **everything** that was **created**, and his **life brought light** to **everyone**. ⁵ The **light shines** in the **darkness**, and the **darkness can never extinguish** it.

U	A	G	B	L	E	D	X	Y	Y	L
E	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	X	T
T	V	V	O	N	O	X	H	K	B	K
V	X	E	U	K	T	T	I	N	E	T
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X	G	R	T	R	N	G	S	E	N	E
I	L	I	F	E	G	U	K	R	N	L
S	T	S	T	A	D	I	O	Y	I	I
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4. Answering the most important questions about Jesus can be the difference between life or death. Look at **1 John 1:1-3** and note the evidence John gives for Jesus in his first letter.

¹ We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. ² This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **1 JOHN 1:1-3 (NLT)**

- Although our generation has not seen with our own eyes and touched with our own hands as John's generation did, are there any ways in your life you have seen "evidence" of Jesus or the fellowship with Him John describes in these verses?

5. Wherever we are in our knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is, John highlights a lifestyle in **1 John 2:3-6** that will show us if we truly are Jesus followers.

³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. **1 JOHN 2:3-6 (NLT)**

- With this way of living in mind, is there an area in your life where you'd like to do better as we wrap up 2023 and head toward 2024?
- How might those closest to you benefit from your renewed commitment to this area?

Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.

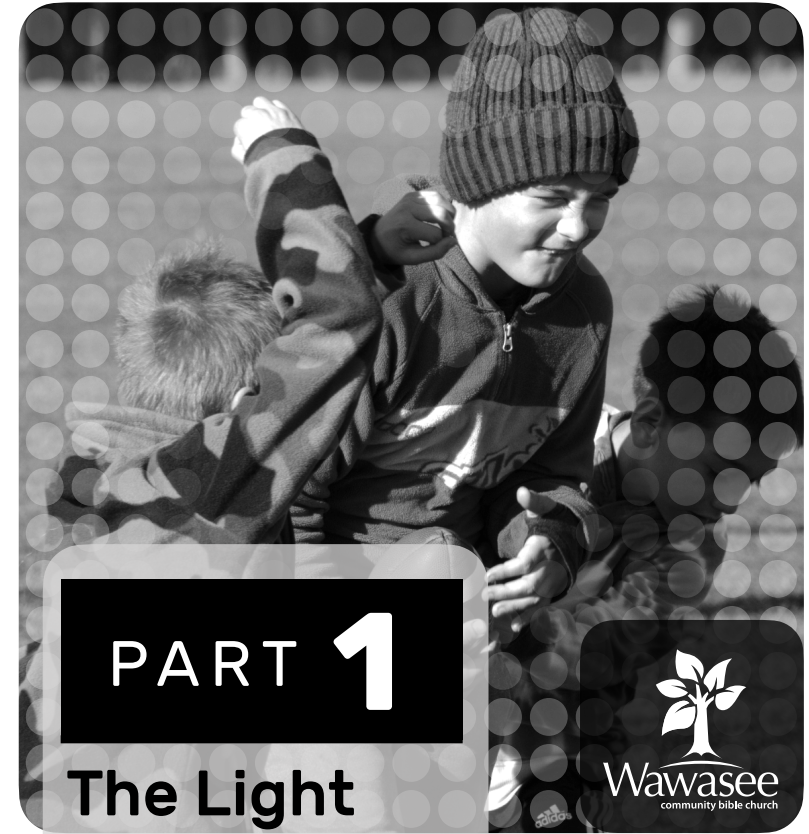
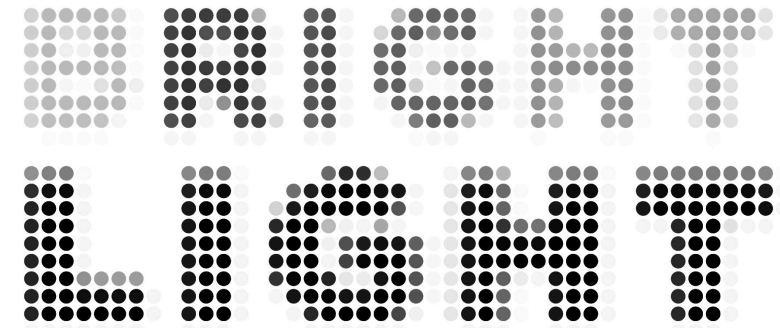
Parts of this week's study are adapted from a study produced by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is part of the EFCA and a sister church of Wawasee Bible.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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PART 1

The Light Has Come

JOHN 1:1-5



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our Digital Bulletin & Connect Card.

<https://wawasee.today>