



NAC-USA  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

Light and  
Life

# MIDWEEK GUIDE

Led by the  
Light

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**2019**

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December

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**Facilitators:** Please remember to report your small group attendance to the appropriate person in your congregation. **If you're interested in being able to text in your attendance, talk to your rector about the Text2Voucher option.** For any additional questions, please email [communications@nac-usa.org](mailto:communications@nac-usa.org).

# 2019 December MIDWEEK GUIDE

## Session 1: Light and Life

1. Advent is often referred to as a “season of light.” How can you use the sights, sounds, smells, and experiences of Advent to explore Jesus as your light?

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2. Have you experienced the light of God breaking the darkness in your life? If so, in what ways, and how did you know it was His light?

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3. What does it mean to dwell in the presence of God? What does the life of someone who dwells in the presence of God look like?

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4. Read John 1:1-11. Explore some of the phrases together. What does it mean that “the darkness did not comprehend it”? Why do you think John takes us back to the beginning, like another telling of the creation story? Use study bibles, commentaries, or other Bible translations to discuss.

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5. Physically being in the dark, especially for a long period of time, could bring feelings of uncertainty, fear, apprehension, and even anxiety. Discuss how these feelings could also be present when one is in spiritual darkness. How does the light of Christ combat these emotions?

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6. As a lamp needs to be connected to a power source, we too need to be connected to Christ to reflect His light, as He has called us to do. What are some ways to preserve this connection and prevent it from dimming?

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7. How does Jesus' light give us hope for the future?

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8. How can you share the light of Jesus with someone this Christmas season?

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### Bible References

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Isaiah 9:2

John 1:4, 5, 10-11

John 8:12

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## Session 2: Led by the Light

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1. Review Matthew 2:1-12 as a group. Did you learn anything new from reading the text again? Was there anything there you hadn't noticed before? Was there something missing that you thought was from the Bible, but perhaps you just picked up from tradition or song lyrics?

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2. The video asked the question, "Do we have a curious faith?" How has the Holy Spirit guided you to seek and learn more about God this past year?

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3. Why is it sometimes hard to trust in God’s wisdom instead of your own? What can you do to help yourself fully trust in Him?

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4. How does the knowledge that because of Jesus you never have to walk in darkness affect the way you worship?

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5. *God confounds the reason of the reasonable.* Is it possible to fully understand God? Brainstorm words that describe God’s wisdom and ways (i.e. unfathomable, beyond reach, etc.). How do these words make you feel? Do they prompt you to any action?

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6. Read Luke 1:46-55 together. Discuss how Mary’s prayer confirms God’s love for the lowly, the broken, the lost. How can we reflect His love to those groups in our families, congregations, and communities?

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7. *God in Jesus of Nazareth – that is the secret, hidden wisdom...that “no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived”...that is the depth of the Deity whom we worship as mystery and comprehend as mystery.* What does this quote mean to you? Read 1 Corinthians 2:7-10. What do these verses add to the meaning?

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8. Share the last time you found God in an unexpected place. Discuss how you can create time and space to discover and worship Him over these final few weeks of the year.

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### Bible References

Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 7:7/Luke 11:9

Luke 1:46-55

1 Corinthians 2:7-10

Small Group Theme for January: Freedom