

# LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Time: 40 Minutes

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Into his wonderful light – 1 PETER 2:9

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## RESOURCES

- \* Dark room
- \* Tea lights – at least one or two per participant
- \* Candle lighter
- \* Table for candle lighting

## BACKSTORY

On a dark night, some scientists believe, a candle flame flickering can be seen up to 30 miles away. If the earth had no curve, one could potentially see the light from hundreds of miles away. The furthest object you can see without specialized equipment is the Andromeda galaxy, which is 2.6 million light years away. When God, at creation, says, "Let there be light," (Genesis 1:3), he introduces a powerful force. Do not fear darkness. In darkness, light shines brighter.

## PROCEDURES

1. Read the backstory.
2. Say: *As we sit in this dark room, let's acknowledge the darkness around us and in us. First, think about the darkness in our society. I invite you to say sentence prayers. You may wish to start with the words: I acknowledge the darkness of, for example, the sex trade.*
3. When the time is right, say: *Next, let's acknowledge the darkness within us. You may wish to start with the words: I acknowledge the darkness of, for example, my jealousy of others.*
4. Again, when the time is right, read the following scriptures:
  - *Isaiah 9:2 – "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."*

GROUP PRAYERS / ADULT/YOUTH / PRAYING WITH THEMES

- *John 8:12 – “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*
  - *Ephesians 5:8 – “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”*
  - *1 Peter 2:9 – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*
5. Say: *As we sit in this darkness, think about ways God has given you light:*
    - *Has he shown you a way to go?*
    - *Has he helped you understand something?*
    - *Has he freed you from a tunnel of bondage?*
    - *Has he brought you peace and joy? For the next few minutes, review your life, looking for light.*
  6. When the time is right light a tea light and as you do, say: *I light this candle to praise God for giving me light when \_\_\_\_\_ (finish the sentence).*
  7. Then say: *I invite you to come to the table, one at a time. As you light a candle, declare praise to him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*
  8. Close the prayer time with the following benediction: *“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praise of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).*