



# *Lightbearers*

## A 7 DAY PRAYER GUIDE TO INSPIRE YOU TO WALK IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

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In the beginning God created humans. He created them to know him and to fellowship with him daily. As long as God's children stayed connected to him, they would enjoy his light and presence. But Satan, the prince of darkness, poisoned the minds of Adam and Eve to believe that they could disobey God and still be okay. They believed his lies, plunging them into spiritual darkness. Since their fall in the Garden of Eden, people have chosen to live life apart from God—apart from his love, protection, and guidance. But life without God results in pain, emptiness, and the brokenness of sin. God does not want his children to live in spiritual darkness.

God wants us to know that he loves us, and that he's there to guide us. That's why, God sent his light to the world. Scripture says:

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In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

(JOHN 1:1-5 GNT)

God sent the Word—Jesus. From the beginning, Jesus was God’s plan to bring light to a spiritually dark world. Jesus is the source of life; he is the light that illumines human hearts to the truth of his unfailing love. He is the light that saves us from the darkness of sin. Jesus is hope for the downtrodden, healing for the wounded, freedom for the captive, and salvation for the lost. Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).

And we are his lightbearers. As Christ-followers we are called to shine his light in dark places. For the next seven days, journey with us as we learn what it means to walk in the light of Christ and pray for God to shine his light through us.

## DAY 1: HOPE AND LIGHT

Over 2,500 years ago, the prophet Isaiah described a people who were living in a land of shadows. They lived in utter gloom and darkness because they had turned away from God. Isaiah 8:21-22 reveals that the Israelites, having rebelled against God’s Word, would live in terrifying darkness and be discouraged and hungry.

But they weren’t the only ones living in spiritual darkness. All humanity was living in a dark, sinful world where there was deep anguish, despair, and hopelessness. Isaiah longed for the day when the brokenness would disappear. He longed for the day when the long-awaited Messiah, a descendant of King David, would fulfill the ancient promises of God to his people.

Then it happened. God showed Isaiah a light. A light that would dispel the darkness, a light that would bring hope. Isaiah 9:2 (GNT) notes, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.” The prophet goes on to say:



A child is born to us!  
A son is given to us!  
And he will be our ruler.  
He will be called, “Wonderful Counselor,”  
“Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,”  
“Prince of Peace”

(ISAIAH 9:6 GNT)

The promised king was coming! Isaiah prophesied about the one who would bring the kingdom of God and rescue his people. He did not know when, but he knew it would happen, and this gave Isaiah and the Israelites hope for many generations to come.

Jesus was that faithful king from the line of David. He was the one Isaiah was pointing to. Luke 2:11 (GNT) says, “This very day in David’s town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! Jesus is the Messiah, the one who would do all the things God promised to David and Abraham. He is the light of the world. Jesus came to bring salvation and hope. And Jesus is still the answer for the anguish, despair, and hopelessness we see in our world today. We do not have to wait for the light, he is here! And he is shining on those who welcome him.



#### Scripture Verse: Isaiah 9:2 (GNT)

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.*



#### Reflection Questions:

- What did Isaiah’s announcement of a coming Messiah represent for the Israelites? What does the birth of Jesus represent for people around the world living in deep suffering and despair today?
- Read Isaiah 9:2-7. What are some encouraging things we learn from this passage about the coming Messiah?

#### Prayer

Father, thank you for sending your one and only Son Jesus to redeem us and bring us hope. We pray that all those who are living in spiritual darkness today will receive Jesus so that they can have the light of life. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.



## DAY 2: THE TRUE LIGHT

My mother loves plants! When I was growing up my home was always filled with plants. There were plants on every windowsill, plants hanging from ceiling hooks, and plants in floor pots in about every room. Plants made our home feel like a beautiful garden oasis.

When I got married, I decided I wanted my home to feel the same. So, I bought plants for our tiny rowhome in the city. But the problem with having plants in a rowhome is there isn't much sunlight! The only sunlight we received came from one window in the front of the house and one window in the back. It did not take long for my plants to die under the artificial light of lamps and lightbulbs.

Plants often struggle to survive in artificial light. They need true sunlight to get the necessary nutrients to grow and thrive. Unlike plants that only need natural light, we need another kind of light to grow and thrive—the true light. John tells us that Jesus is the true light (John 1:9). He is the only one who can bring salvation to all humanity. He is the only one that can fully satisfy our desire to be seen, known, and loved. Things like wealth, reputation, fame, adventure, and relationships might make us happy for a while, but they will never fully satisfy us. They are temporal. Jesus is the true light that dispels darkness, provides reassurance, and gives us lasting joy.



**Scripture Verse:** John 1:9 (CEV)

*The true light that shines on everyone was coming into the world.*



**Reflection Questions:**

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the true light?
- What are some things in your life that you thought would make you feel loved and bring you joy but didn't satisfy you long-term?

### Prayer

Father, today we are fully dependent on you. We recognize that material things, social status, and money can be fleeting, but nothing will ever satisfy us like following Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus, you are the true light that our soul craves, we turn to you for all that we need. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



## DAY 3: LIGHT THAT PIERCES THE DARKNESS

There I was crammed into a small broom closet with seven jumpy, giggling teenagers. We were playing a friendly game of hide and seek at our annual church youth retreat. Among the mops, brooms, buckets, and what felt like hundreds of limbs I knew our only hope of evading our “seekers” was the darkness. If we remained in the dark, there was no way our secret location would be disclosed.

Sadly, things did not go as planned. The other team ran down the steps to the basement floor where we were hiding and flicked on the light switch. Instantly light came flooding underneath the door of the broom closet, exposing our shadows and shattering our dream of becoming hide and seek champions.

But I learned an important lesson that day. Light pierces darkness. Scripture tells us in John 1:5 (GNT), “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.” Darkness cannot exist where there is light. Sometimes people living in spiritual darkness cannot see what harmful and painful things are destroying their lives. They cannot see how Satan wants to bring them pain and lure them into sin. They need a light. Jesus our Savior declared himself to be the light of the world. It is only in the light of Jesus’s presence that sin is exposed, and we see our need of him.

When we walk with Jesus and allow his light, his life, his truth to guide us our hearts are transformed, and we are made a new creation. We are no longer controlled by the darkness of sin but instead we choose to live a life that models Christ’s character. Invite the light of Jesus’s love to shine in your life. With the light of Jesus inside of you, you can overcome Satan’s tactics to destroy you and be set free from the sin you have struggled with and, in some cases, the sin you have yet to realize exists.



**Scripture Verse:** John 1:5 (GNT)

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.*



**Reflection Questions:**

- Why do we need the light of Jesus?
- What are some things Jesus has revealed to you about your life since you invited him to shine his light into your heart?



## Prayer

Father, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to be a light that overcomes the power of darkness. Today, we invite Jesus to shine his light into our hearts and to expose any hidden sin. We pray that through complete surrender to Jesus, sin will no longer have dominion over our lives. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

## DAY 4: CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a well-recognized religious leader of the Jewish people, and a member of the Sanhedrin. As such, he questioned Jesus's ministry. But Nicodemus had likely witnessed the signs and wonders Jesus was performing among the people. These signs made him curious. So, Nicodemus visited Jesus. Scripture tells us that Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night (John 3:2) probably because he did not want anyone to see him talking with Jesus.

During this nighttime conversation, Jesus says one of the most quoted verses in the Bible, John 3:16 (GNT): "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." Then later, Jesus says something interesting to a man who has chosen to speak to him under the cover of darkness:

This is how the judgement works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil. Those who do evil things hate the light and will not come to the light, because they do not want their evil deeds to be shown up. But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God.

(JOHN 3:19-21 GNT)

This shocking revelation by Jesus that people love the darkness rather than the light highlights our human tendency to choose evil. Some people will choose a life of darkness and evil deeds over one of righteousness that Jesus offers. Yet Jesus's desire is for all people to embrace his light. In this conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus isn't condemning Nicodemus's actions. He's inviting him! He wants Nicodemus to choose him, the light of life.

In the same way, Jesus invites us into a relationship with him. He wants to walk with us, talk with us, and guide us in every decision. He wants to illumine our path so we can bear good fruit and accomplish all the good purposes he has for our lives. But the choice is ours. We must choose to walk in his light and become disciples of Jesus.



### Scripture Verse: John 3:19 (CEV)

*This is how the judgement works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil.*



### Reflection Questions:

- What choices can you make daily that reflect the light of Jesus?
- How can choosing to live according to Jesus's teachings change someone's life?

### Prayer

Father, thank you that no matter what sinful things we have done, you welcome us into your family with arms wide open if we will accept Jesus into our hearts. We pray that you open the eyes of those living in spiritual darkness so they can choose you, the light, instead. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

## DAY 5: SHINE BRIGHT

Imagine being in a dark room without an ounce of light. As you fumble around in the dark, every step, every sound, every moment holds fear and uncertainty. Total darkness can be a scary thing! Just ask any small child who struggles to sleep in a dark room. They fear what may be hidden or lurking in the darkness. But just a small light from a lamp, or a flashlight can make all the difference.

Today, many people are fumbling in spiritual darkness. They can't see their way out of their hopelessness and the darkness of sin. As they struggle to find a way of escape, every moment holds fear and uncertainty. But the light of Jesus can make all the difference! Jesus offers hope, purpose, and freedom. That's why we need to share the light of Jesus with the world. Jesus invites us to shine his light in dark places. Through the Holy Spirit living in us, we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to our hurting world. We can bring his hope. This is what Jesus encouraged his followers to do:

“You are the light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.”

(MATTHEW 5:14-16 CEV)

Jesus invites us to shine bright so that others will see his goodness and love. How you shine may look different than how others shine. You might tell others about Jesus, volunteer in your





church or community, help a family member, or pray for others, but the important thing is that your life reflects the character of Jesus.



### Scripture Verse: Matthew 5:16 (CEV)

*"Make your light shine, so that others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven."*



### Reflection Questions:

- Is there someone in your life now or in your past that modeled what it would look like to be the hands and feet of Jesus?
- In what ways do you struggle to shine your light? Or when are you tempted to conceal your light?

### Prayer

Father, thank you for making me a reflection of your light. Help me to reflect your glory and the transforming power of the gospel. Jesus, I pray that I will love, care for, encourage, and serve others like you did when you walked on the earth. I pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

## DAY 6: A LIGHT TO ALL NATIONS

All people of every nation were created by God, unique and beautiful. And God's desire is that every nation will know him and make him Lord. But many nations are hurting and are in deep need of God's healing. They need God's intervention to restore broken systems, communities, and lives devastated by the darkness of sin. They need the light of Jesus.

American Bible Society is bringing the light of Jesus to nations that are lost in spiritual darkness, by providing them with Scripture. We know that millions of people around the world are cut off from God's Word. Some lack access due to barriers such as poverty, illiteracy, and disability. Others are cut off because of discrimination, oppression, and persecution. Still others live in places so remote it is difficult to reach them. Our goal is to deliver the Word of God to every location, in every format, for every person. Through Bible translation, Bible distribution, and by pioneering Bible formats, we are working to reach people in all nations.

Scripture reminds us that God's Word is a lamp to guide us and a light for our path (Psalm 119:105). And American Bible Society is committed to sharing the light of God's Word with all nations, so that all people can experience the light of Jesus.







**Scripture Verse:** : Psalm 119:105 (GNT)

*Your word is a lamp to guide me  
and a light for my path.*



**Reflection Questions:**

- Where do you see the light of Christ at work in our world today?
- Why is it important to share God’s Word with all nations?

**Prayer**

Father, thank you that your Word has the power to transform nations. We pray that through the Holy Scriptures you will bring healing, restoration, and salvation to every person on earth. May the earth be full of the knowledge of your glory as the waters cover the sea. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.

**DAY 7: LIGHTBEARERS – READY, SET, GO!**

As Jesus’s earthly ministry was ending and he was approaching his death and resurrection, he prepares to pass on the baton to his followers. Jesus tells his followers to stay in the city of Jerusalem until they are given power from heaven (Luke 24:49). And that power came! On the day of Pentecost, as Jesus’s followers gathered in one place, the promised Holy Spirit came upon them, empowering them to be witnesses of Christ to the world (Act 2).

We are the extension of Jesus’s ministry. Although he no longer has a physical presence on earth, Jesus continues to shine through the Spirit of Christ in his people. His life, love, and hope live on through us.

So, it’s our turn to let our light shine! Let’s reflect the heart and character of Christ to a world that so desperately needs it. To get you started, we want you to write down some action steps. As a lightbearer, I will:

**• ENCOURAGE OTHERS.**

Name someone you want to encourage either through a kind act, sending a note, cooking a meal, giving a ride, or offering prayer.

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• **READ GOD’S WORD.**

Write down a passage of Scripture or verse that resonated with you this week as you filled yourself with God’s truths.

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• **PRAY FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.**

Name three things/people/nations you will pray for this week. Invite others to [join our prayer community](#) that prays for Bible ministry around the world.

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• **SHARE THE LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD WITH THE NATIONS.**

Write down one way you can support God’s Word being sent to the nations. Consider [donating to send God’s Word around the world](#) through American Bible Society’s Bible translation efforts and Scripture resources.

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• **SHARE THE LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD WITH MY CHURCH.**

Name someone in your church with whom you can share [Bible-based trauma healing ministry](#) to help care for those facing trauma in your community. Consider downloading free resources through [Trauma Healing Basics](#), which offers practical guides that help people learn about trauma and start to heal or be trained to become a trauma healing facilitator.

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