

## The Meaning Behind the Magic | Week #02

Start with the Lights | December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Anchor Verse:** Everyone who listened was astonished at what the shepherds told them. But Mary took all this in and reflected on it. Luke 2:18-19

### What's the Issue Anyway?

December 25<sup>th</sup> is \_\_\_\_\_ time not historical time.

### The Magic in the Lights

Darkness and Light in the \_\_\_\_\_ World.

The \_\_\_\_\_ that guided Matthew's Magi. (Matthew 2:1-2)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the angels that appeared to Luke's shepherds. (Luke 2:9)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Luke find their pinnacle with light imagery. (Luke 1:78-79 and 2:32)

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in John's Christmas prologue.  
(John 1:1-5)

### What's the Meaning behind the Magic of December 25<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Lights?

The Divine \_\_\_\_\_, born in the darkest of night, brings the \_\_\_\_\_ of the dawn to all creation.

The Roman birthday of the \_\_\_\_\_ became the Christian birthday of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### What about my everyday, normal (peacemaking) life?

Follow \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_ and let your light \_\_\_\_\_.

### How can this potentially make us better people and our world a better place?

Light transforms \_\_\_\_\_ of the dark into something \_\_\_\_\_.

### What is God inviting me into today?

1. Hang Christmas lights.
2. Be a light for God's love and beauty as part of the scattered church.
3. Be a light for God's love and beauty as part of the gathered church.

### Thought provoking questions:

1. What are some experiences in life that we would classify with the metaphor of “Darkness?” What about experiences we would classify with the metaphor of “Light?”
2. Describe a personal experience or season in your life where you felt the “Light of God” shine in the “Darkness of this world.” How did the light come to you?
3. Do you ever think you were the “Light of God” shining in someone’s life? Maybe you didn’t know it at the time but discovered later the impact your life had on someone else’s darkness.
4. How does knowing the “Why” behind the choice of December 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the birth of Jesus affect your faith in the hope of Jesus and the Christmas story? Do you feel that it cheapens the birth of Jesus by celebrating with “Parabolic” time rather than “historical” time?
5. Is there someone in your life right now walking in darkness? How can you be the light of Christ in their life? What is something you could do in the next 48 hours to shine God’s love in their circumstances?