The Meaning Behind the Magic | Week #02
Start with the Lights | December 9th

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 25th 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)
Jesus is the __________ of the __________ in John’s Christmas prologue.
  (John 1:1-5)

What’s the Meaning behind the Magic of December 25th 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 25th 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?