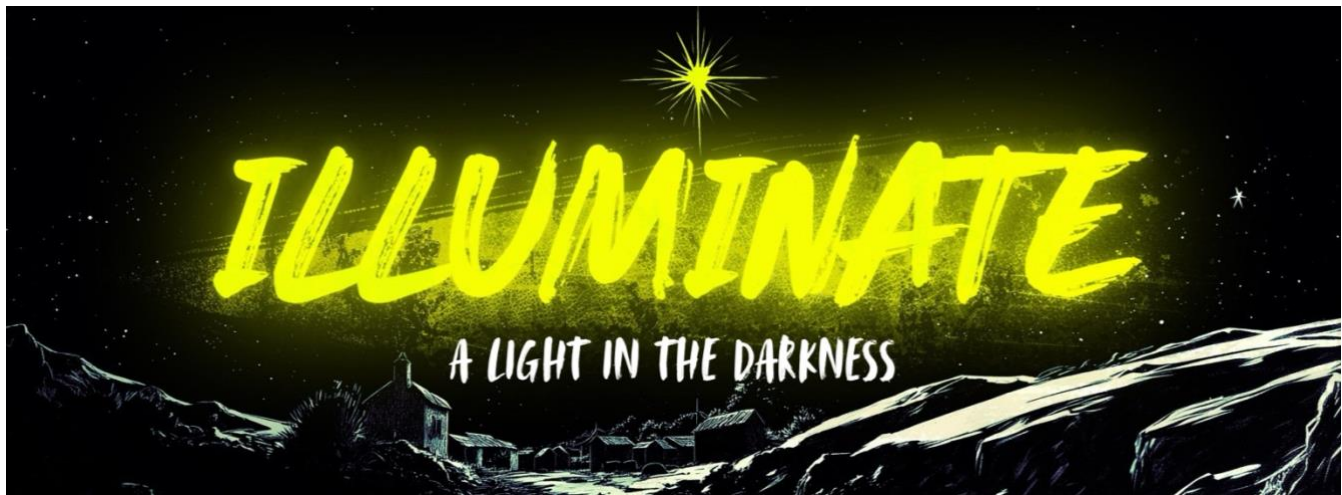




WEEK 3 – THE LIGHT WITHIN US
HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY TEACHING GUIDE

BIG IDEA

We must carry the light of Jesus within us

BIBLE

*Matthew 5:14–16; Isaiah 9:2; 1 John 1:5;
John 8:12; John 1:5, 9*

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Jesus not only came as the light of the world — He calls His followers to be that light too. This final week challenges students to live out their faith through visible actions that reflect the love and goodness of God. When we let our light shine, people see Jesus through us and are drawn to praise the Father.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

HOOK – Stadium Lights

- Have you ever been to a concert or night game where all the lights suddenly go dark — and then, in one moment, the whole stadium lights up again?
- It's powerful. Thousands of small lights — phone flashlights, screens, glow sticks — together make something you can't ignore.
 - That's a picture of what Jesus was describing when He said, "You are the light of the world."
- He wasn't talking about a few "super-Christians" who shine while everyone else watches.
 - He was talking about a movement — ordinary people carrying His light into every dark corner of the world.

CONTEXT – FROM RECEIVING TO REFLECTING

- For the last two weeks, we've seen God's light move in one direction:
 - Week 1: Promised — Isaiah told people living in fear that light was coming.
 - Week 2: Revealed — Jesus was born, and that light broke through history itself.
- But now, in Matthew 5, something shifts.

- The same Jesus who said, *"I am the light of the world"* (John 8:12), now looks at His followers and says, *"You are the light of the world."*
- That's not a contradiction — it's a commissioning.
 - He's saying: "My light lives in you now. Wherever you go, My light goes too."
- **READ *Matthew 5:14–16 NIV***
 - ¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*
- This is Jesus' vision for His people — not hidden, not quiet, not blending in
 - Visible. Present. Radiating something the world can't explain.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- Jesus didn't just save you *from* something — He saved you *for* something.
 - If you've received His light, you now represent Him wherever you go. That means your faith isn't meant to stay in this room or just come alive at Christmas. It's meant to influence your real world — your friendships, your school, your home.
- **READ *1 John 1:5 NIV***
 - "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all."
- That means darkness doesn't get to define you anymore — not your shame, not your past, not your mistakes.
- God has placed His light *in you*, and it's meant to be seen.
- The world doesn't need more perfect people. It needs people whose lives reflect something different — love that doesn't quit, peace that doesn't break, and hope that doesn't run out.
- When you live like that, you become a walking preview of who God is.
 - Your actions, your attitude, your integrity — they point people back to the Source of the light.
- That's what Jesus meant when He said, *"Let your good deeds shine so that others may glorify your Father in heaven."*

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

- When you leave here tonight, you're stepping into a dark world that needs light — your school, your teams, your group chats, your home.
- Here's how you can carry the light with you:

1. Live as light, not spotlight.

- Jesus didn't say, "Draw attention to yourself."
 - He said, "Let your light shine so people see God."
 - Use your influence to lift others up, not yourself.
 - Ask: *Do my words and actions make people curious about Jesus?*

2. Bring light where it's missing.

- You don't have to go overseas to be a light — just look around.
 - Who's struggling in silence? Who's excluded, anxious, or cynical?
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- Be that steady presence — the friend who listens, the one who prays, the one who brings peace instead of pressure.

3. Shine together.

- A single light can get noticed, but a community of lights can't be ignored.
 - That's what the church is meant to be — a movement of people carrying hope into the world.
 - And next week, our Christmas Eve services are an incredible opportunity to do that together.
 - Think about one person you could invite — not because it's an event, but because it's a chance for someone to meet the Light you've encountered.

Gospel Invitation

- Maybe tonight you realize you've seen the light of Jesus from a distance, but you've never actually let Him in.
 - The invitation is simple — let His light fill your life.
- You can pray right where you are:
 - "Jesus, I believe You are the light of the world. Shine into my life. Forgive me, change me, and use me to reflect Your light."
- That's the beginning of a new life — one that carries light into every space it goes

Prayer:

- Lead students in a prayer before dismissing them to Small Groups.
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