



PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL WEEK FOUR: PLAN

The Light of the World

"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." ~ John 1:4

When I put my granddaughter to bed at night, we have a ritual - 3 books, the songs "Holy Like You" (Build my Life), "Twinkle Twinkle", and "Fight My Battles". Then, as I'm walking out, the final ritual: "Keep the door open." Evidently, she doesn't like the dark. I don't know any kids that do, and she is no exception. There is something about the dark that is at best inconvenient, and at worst, terrifying. There is a sense of safety and control when the lights are on, because we can clearly see everything around us. But when it's dark, all bets are off. Truth be told, I don't like the dark much either.

The word "darkness" would well define the world Jesus entered as a child. He was born into oppression, defeat, discouragement. And while they were longing for the promised Messiah, their surroundings were so dark, each head hung so low, he slipped into the world largely unnoticed. What they wanted was a great military leader to rescue them. What they needed was someone to show them a new way to think and a new way to live. They were looking for a sword, but they needed a flashlight.

This morning, the light has come to you. He wants to shine in every dark crevice of your life. In him is freedom, hope, and healing. If you feel oppressed, defeated or discouraged, lift your head! The light has come for you. If you are living in the darkness of guilt, shame, or fear, the light has come for you. If you'll let him, he will illuminate the path to freedom, to the life you've always wanted. Today is a reminder to us all that thousands of years ago, God became flesh and pierced the darkness with eternal light. And it shines just as brightly today. In fact, anyone who follows him is no longer in darkness.

His name is Jesus. He is the light of the world.

Prayer:

"Jesus, shine your light on any darkness in my life. Where I am living in guilt, shame, fear, confusion, bring the light of hope, peace, love and joy. Illuminate the path to freedom in my life. For your fame and glory. Amen."