

Light of the **WORLD**

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Happiness is PURSUED,
joy is RECEIVED.

John 15:11

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that **your joy may be complete.**
(emphasis added)

Happiness depends on
CIRCUMSTANCE,
joy is rooted in
IDENTITY.

Where do you need to stop pursuing and start receiving this week?

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

- :: What is the favorite gift you've ever **received**? What is the favorite gift you've ever **given**?
- :: Read John 1:1-14. What sticks out to you? What do you find especially gripping? What is challenging for you in the passage?
- :: When have you felt stuck (or crushed!) between desire and circumstance?
 - :: How did you navigate that?
 - :: Looking back, what do you wish you had done differently?
 - :: Where did you see God at work?
 - :: How can that experience inform how you handle your current “between desire and circumstance” moments?
- :: Jesus ties our obedience to him to a kind of joy that fills us up to the brim (in John 15:11). How do you think our obedience and joy are related to each other?
- :: Pastor Jeremiah said a good indicator of what we're full of is “what spills out when we're bumped.” What are the implications of this for us?
- :: What is one way you can position yourself to receive joy this week? Ask someone to pray for you/check in on you as you intentionally choose this posture.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Jeremiah Gómez (@jxgomez) – December 12 & 13, 2020

Watch this message and other recent messages online at heritageqc.com/watch

It's not too late to get your **Light of the World** 2020 Advent Kit! Stop by the BridgePointe lobby (M-F) between 8 am – 7 pm! Full of great activites, meaningful reflections, and gifts from Heritage, it is our hope that these kits will help you get the most out of your journey to Christmas.

Don't miss our '**Noël at Night**' opportunities each Wednesday during Advent @ 7pm. Live on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, this is a great way for us to pray, worship and "be together"!

For more information on how to continue connecting with Heritage as we pursue God together—see heritageqc.com.



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