



Week 1: Rescue

Colossians 1:12b-14; 21-22

He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins... ²¹This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²²Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Respond:

- :: Receive the rescue of Jesus (use a prayer like the one on the back of this Guide).
- :: Don't go alone (connect with others); text "**LIGHT**" to **309-250-2007**.

Where are you **IN DARKNESS**?

Amos 5:21-24

²¹"I hate all your show and pretense—
the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies.
²²I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings.
I won't even notice all your choice peace offerings.
²³Away with your noisy hymns of praise!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
²⁴Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice,
an endless river of righteous living.

Respond:

- :: Identify one practical expression of love and "light" this week.
- :: Share with someone you trust what your "taking light" place/opportunity is so they can pray for you.

Where are you meant to **TAKE LIGHT** into the darkness?

How to receive the rescue of Jesus:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, have been in darkness and need the LIGHT of 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:

Jesus, I have been lost in deep darkness and need you to rescue me. I have done things I need your forgiveness of; I have lived in separation from you and need you to reconcile us. You died and rose from the dead, so I know you can do this in my life. I receive you as my rescuing savior and put my faith in you as my Lord. Help me to live for you in the light from this day forward. In your name, amen.

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

For Further Reflection:

Share about a time you were afraid of the dark. How did you respond? What do you think can make the dark so scary?

Read the whole passage of Colossians 1:11-22.

- :: What is significant about how the writer describes Jesus and his work?
- :: How do you see Jesus as uniquely positioned to offer light & rescue?
- :: What do you think it means to be part of the "kingdom of light?"

Read Amos 5:21-24.

- :: What sticks out to you? What is hopeful? What is challenging?
- :: How do think "worship" and "justice" are meant to exist together?

Pastor Jeremiah said, "We don't see (in the Bible) God rejecting acts of justice because his people fail at worship, but we do see him rejecting acts of worship because his people fail in justice."

- :: How might this inform our ongoing need for God's grace and rescue?
- :: How do you think we can fall into a pattern of prioritizing "worship" over "justice"?
- :: What does it look like to live in both justice and worship individually? Corporately?
- :: How did you feel prompted to 'respond' this weekend?

How will you live more purposefully in the light and rescue of Jesus?

How will you identify and interact with opportunities to take light into darkness?

- :: Find someone to pray for you and check in on you as you respond.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].
Pastor Jeremiah X. Gómez (@jgomez) – October 3, 2021

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