



# **HILLCREST**

## **LIFE GROUPS**

### Sermon Discussion Guide

### The Light Shines in the Darkness

John 1:1-18

Sunday, January 10, 2021

[www.hillcrest.church](http://www.hillcrest.church)

## Get to Know You

Do you ever Wikipedia a book or movie to discover the ending early?

Are you more concerned with book/movie or sports score spoilers?

## Study the Book

Read John 1:1-18

**Christ's victory over the forces of darkness** calls for a personal response from you.

What does John mean by the forces of darkness?

Why is darkness a good symbolic representation?

What are some sources of light (literal and spiritual) that we need for life, health, and growth?

Christ's victory over the forces of darkness **calls for a personal response from you.**

Why did John write the Gospel of John (v. 20:31)?

What two groups do not come to the light according to verses 10 and 11?

Read Psalm 19:1-2

How have you seen the evidence of God in creation?

Read John 1:11

---

If the world in general has some instinctive knowledge of God through nature, the Jewish people had even more. They had God's very words, the Bible. God had revealed more of himself to them than to any other people. But when he came to his own in Jesus, his own did not receive him.

Maybe your biography is in verse 11. Oh, not because you're Jewish, but because most of you listening to this message were raised in a family that went to church. Your parents made sure you went to Vacation Bible School and youth camp. You know something about the Bible. And yet, here you are in your 20s or your 40s or your senior adult years, and still, as verse 11 says, you have not received him. Jesus is nothing more than a name in a storybook of your childhood.

Pastor Tom

---

Read John 1:12

Believing in the name of Jesus means to move toward all that Jesus' name represents.

What does the name of Jesus represent? (Provide Scripture references for bonus points.)

### **Group Application and Discussion**

How is Jesus a “light” in your life as you have experienced “darkness”?

In what areas of darkness does the world need the light of Jesus today?

### **Personal Reflection and Application**

Are you leaning into the light of Jesus or the darkness of this world?