

NOTES: WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

Text: Isaiah 9:2, John 1:4–5, Luke 2:9–11

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

John 1:4-5

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Luke 2:9-11

⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

INTRODUCTION – WE’VE ALL BEEN THERE

Have you ever been in a place where the lights went out Not just in the house... but in your *life*?

The joy that used to be there is dim. The marriage that once sparkled feels cold. The finances that once felt stable are hanging by a thread. The body that once felt strong now carries pain, diagnosis, or exhaustion. The faith that once burned bright now feels like a flicker.

It’s dark.

It’s quiet.

And sometimes... it’s lonely.

And here’s the truth: **Darkness doesn’t ask permission. It just shows up.**

But Christmas reminds us of something powerful:

God does His best work when the lights go out.

1. DARKNESS IS A REAL PART OF THE HUMAN STORY

Isaiah 9:2

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."

Darkness is not a failure of faith. Darkness is part of living in a broken world.

- Marriages go dark when communication stops.
- Finances go dark when bills stack up and peace runs out.
- Bodies go dark when pain shows up uninvited.
- Souls go dark when disappointment lingers too long.

And some of the darkest places aren't loud they're quiet. You're surrounded by people, yet feel unseen. You worship, yet feel empty. You smile, yet feel numb.

2. WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, WE REALIZE WHAT WE WERE DEPENDING ON

Darkness reveals what was powering us.

Sometimes the light goes out because:

- We were running on emotion instead of devotion
- We were trusting income instead of inheritance
- We were leaning on people instead of Presence
- We were fueled by momentum, not intimacy

God doesn't turn off the lights to punish us. Sometimes He allows darkness to **redirect us**.

3. THE CHRISTMAS STORY BEGINS IN THE DARK

We love Christmas lights but the first Christmas happened in the dark.

- A nation under Roman oppression
- A silent heaven 400 years without a prophetic word
- A teenage girl misunderstood
- A baby born in a stable, not a palace

Luke 2:9

"And behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them..."

Light didn't show up in a throne room. Light showed up in a field, to tired shepherds on the night shift.

Because **God specializes in showing up where people feel forgotten**.

4. JESUS IS NOT A FLASHLIGHT—HE IS THE LIGHT

John 1:4–5

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Jesus doesn't just help you see better. He **changes the atmosphere**.

Jesus doesn't promise:

- instant fixes
- painless processes
- problem-free lives

He promises **presence that outshines the pain.**

Darkness may surround you but it cannot defeat what God has ignited inside you.

5. WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, WE CLING TO HOPE

Hope is not pretending things aren't dark. Hope is believing darkness doesn't get the final word.

6. YOU DON'T NEED THE WHOLE ROOM LIT—JUST ONE LIGHT

In a dark room, one candle changes everything.

You don't need:

- all the answers
- all the strength
- all the clarity

You just need **Jesus.**

The same baby laid in a manger would later say:

"I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness." (John 8:12)

Not *might not*. Not *eventually*. **Will not.**

The darkness you're in is no match for the Light you belong to.