



**Series: Light of the World | Sermon: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year |
By Pastor Tracy Pounders | December 4, 2016**

Opening Prayer: Jesus, You are the greatest gift we could receive, and yet you continue to bless us. Please help us to focus on what you have done, and not just what you will do next. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Christmas is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. But for many, Christmas is difficult. This time of year can highlight what is missing in our lives, or the strain from situations complicating our lives. What do you do when the Christmas season seems overwhelming? How can you regain the right focus for the most wonderful time of the year? Consider this while discussing the following questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *The focus: Remember what happened and not what is happening*

1. Describe your favorite Christmas tradition. What did you enjoy most about it?
2. What are some things that distract you from Jesus during the Christmas season? Why do you suppose it is easy for us to lose our focus of the true meaning of Christmas?
3. Read John 1:4-5. Is it hard for you to believe that Jesus can overcome any darkness in your life? Why or why not?
4. John 1:4-5 tells us that Jesus is the life and light that overcomes darkness. What can you do this Christmas to remember that Jesus can overcome any darkness in your life? What can this group do to help?

THINKING FORWARD

The Christmas season brings its own stress and complications. There are traditions no longer practiced, and new ones being created. There are untimely schedules being made and adjusted. Travel arrangements that force Christmas to fly by before we can really focus on this special time. During these times remember this is the most wonderful time of year, not because of what is happening, but because of what happened on that first Christmas.

VERSE TO GO

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 1:4-5)

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for this time of year. A reminder that it is not what is happening in our lives that makes this season important, but that you came to give us freedom and show us love. Amen.