



DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Friday December 9	6pm	LOVE HAS COME: <i>WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT</i>
Sunday December 18	9am & 11am	<i>Children's Program</i>
Thursday December 22		No Service
Friday December 23	7pm	CHRISTMAS GATHERING
Saturday December 24	1pm 4pm 7pm	CHRISTMAS GATHERING
Sunday December 25	On Demand All Day	Special Christmas at Home Online Service
Thursday December 29	6:30pm	Dig Deeper
Sunday January 1	9am & 11am	Encounter Jesus

*Offices closed December 25 - December 31

CHRISTMAS
AT AWAKEN LAS VEGAS

LOVE HAS COME

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT

featuring musical guest
Anna Golden

DECEMBER 9



CHRISTMAS AT HOME ONLINE

DECEMBER 25
ON DEMAND ON YOUTUBE
AND OUR WEBSITE ALL DAY

ENCOUNTER JESUS

Week 15 | A New System | John 8:1-12

YOU DON'T KNOW YOU'RE IN DARKNESS UNTIL YOU SEE THE LIGHT

In your opinion, what are the most famous 'go-to' Bible verses during Christmas? Most will say Luke 2:1-40, but I would suggest that Isaiah 9:2-6 should easily make it into the top 3. Of course, we are most familiar with verse 6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." But verse 2, which reads, "those who dwell in deep darkness, onto them a light has shone," provides the real context for the Christmas story. More often than not, pastors will rightly identify sin and Rome's oppression as the deep darkness that preceded the incarnation. But I want to suggest something else. Something that made the darkness uniquely deep and evil were the religious leaders and their system that twisted the law to oppress people and keep them in their sins. A system that misrepresented God and separated His people from Him. It was during the Feast of Tabernacles that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 9:2, declaring Himself to be the Light of the World, dispelling this false religious system, and revealing the true heart of the Father. The story of the woman caught in adultery is one of the greatest illustrations of His victory over this evil. His words, though few, reverberate with power today, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Thank Jesus for how He rescued you from darkness and graciously set you free from sin.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- 1. Discuss the danger of 'spiritual leaders' creating unbiblical religious systems that pervert God's truth and oppress people. Discuss topics like: the danger of misrepresenting God, self-righteousness, and desiring justice instead of mercy. Can you think of modern examples of this?**
2. Jesus had to silence the oppressive voice of darkness before He spoke the life-changing truth to this woman. He did so by saying to these religious leaders, "Let him who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." **Why was this so convicting to them? How can this statement keep us from making the dangerous mistake of being hypocritical or having double standards?**

IF WE SAY WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US.

1 JOHN 1:8



3. As this woman was being publicly humiliated and put to shame, Jesus demonstrated His love for her. He revealed how the Father truly saw her and He set her free. His words, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more” brought mercy, forgiveness, hope, and truth to her. **Describe how He has done these same things in your life.**

WHEN GOD IS IN THE PICTURE YOUR STORY IS NEVER OVER.

4. Setting people free from sin was why Christ came and conquered darkness. **Discuss as a group how you can share this message with people this Christmas season. Be creative and come up with concrete ideas that you can implement. Be willing to do things as a group.**



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



RESOURCE TO BUILD DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH HOLY SPIRIT



Encounter Jesus Page

Pastor Derek has assembled additional resource to help you build a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit on the sermon series page on our website. You can find it by scanning here or click on the link found on our homepage.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, make a point to be a light for Christ to people who are in real need. Don't be afraid to reach the “least among us” this Christmas season. Jesus did that for you.