

JOURNEY OF LOVE DEVOTIONALS
WEEK #6 – JOURNEY OF LIGHT IN CELEBRATION

December 27th – Monday – 3rd Day of Christmas

Centering Breath Prayer: Child of light...welcome to the world once more.

Opening Prayer:

Light of the World, how wondrous is the light you bring to the earth! I come before you today to welcome you once more into the world. Your coming brings me so much hope and lights the darkness of my journey. How special your light is for me today. I do not know what this day may bring, but because your light shines before me, I can face the world with confidence. May I share your light as I travel along on my journey today. In your awesome name, I pray. Amen.

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Key Verses: John 1:6-8: (6) “God sent John the Baptist (7) to tell everyone about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. (8) John himself was not the light; he was only a witness to the light. (9) The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was going to come into the world” (NLT).

The Gospel of John is one of my favorite books of the Bible and by far my favorite of the gospels. In the Gospel of John we hear all the declarations from Jesus in which he describes himself, the “I am” statements, if you will. “*I am the light of the world*” is one such statement. But, the beautiful and special opening of this gospel touches my heart. In it we hear how Jesus was part of the very beginning of creation when light was formed and darkness was banished. From the very beginning, light was essential for all of creation. Here in John we see Jesus as that light, even before he declares it for himself, we hear that the light, the true light, was coming into the world. When John, the Baptizer, is introduced in this passage, he is introduced as “*a witness to the light.*” We know, of course, that Jesus was already in the world, in fact had been there nearly thirty years by the time John, the Baptizer, began his work. But, now John was going to prepare the way for Jesus’ ministry, readying the people for the light he was bringing. It is interesting how we have jumped from the birth of the Child of light to the beginning of his ministry 30 or so years later. How most of us wish there was more about his childhood, youth and early adulthood included in the Bible. But, these times were not essential information for our faith journeys, and so they are not included. Perhaps the ones who wrote about Jesus’ life and ministry were not given any information concerning those parts of Jesus’ life. After all, it was his teachings and his actions on our behalf which needed to be passed down generation to generation so that we could remember. At any rate, here we are, still in the Christmas celebration, moving into the introduction of Jesus’ ministry by the “witness to the light,” John, the Baptizer. The important fact in this lovely introduction to the Gospel of John is what our “witness”

is about to bring to the people: *“The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was going to come into the world.”*

What does the coming of the light of the world mean for you and me? We still live in a world full of darkness, where people prefer the darkness to the light. We will speak more of this tomorrow as we look at the darkest hour of the Christmas story. For today, let us just remember how much darkness there still is in our world and prepare ourselves to let the light of the Child of light shine through us. Christ’s light comes to us as spiritual light, bringing us food for our souls and illumination for the journey of love and faith which we are taking. He has also given us his light to shine in the darkness around us. As Jesus points out in Matthew 5:14-16, we are not to hide his light, but to let it shine everywhere we go so that those who still walk in darkness can find their way to the light of Christ. So, let us rejoice in the light which has come once more into the world in the Child of light and welcome him back into the world with heart and soul and voice. Let’s shine forth in all God’s glory leading the way out of the darkness. Let’s welcome him back into our own corner of the world to shine into our hearts and souls so that we can reflect his light. As we go along the way upon our journey, let’s not forget to take the light of the world with us.

Additional Scriptures: Matthew 5:14-16; John 8:12-13

Questions for reflection and/or journaling:

1. In what ways is Jesus the light for my world
2. What are some ways I reflect the light of Jesus?
3. How am I hiding the light of the Lord from those around me?

Suggestions for action:

1. Phrase for your tree: **WELCOME THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**
2. Sit in front of a fire or lit candles and contemplate the need for light in your life.
3. As you go through the day, note how many different things you would not be able to do without the light around you.
4. Let Christ’s light shine through you in all your activities today.

Closing Prayer:

Welcome, Child of light into my world. Shine through me today so that the darkness, so prevalent, will be dispelled and your glory will fill my little corner of the earth. Let me uncover my light when I would hide it away out of fear or inattention. Continue to teach me so that my actions reflect the light of your love. Help me speak when my words would bring forth your glory and keep silent when my words would lead away from your light. In the splendor of your shining light, I pray. Amen.