

Welcome to the
fourteenth week of
25 Weeks of Advent!

The stories of Advent all give us some insight as to the point and value of Jesus' life for us.



Three weeks ago, we looked at the anointing of David as king. Left out with the sheep, Jesse doesn't even call his youngest son in to see Samuel who is choosing Israel's next king. God makes an unexpected choice—as he always does!—and chooses this youngest son. David eventually succeeded Saul as king, and reigned 40 years.

Some three hundred years after David, came the prophet Isaiah, who spoke about another king who will come, and reign on David's throne. This king will establish his kingdom with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. And we might have thought that 40 years was a pretty good tenure! But Isaiah knew that Jesus—a child, who would be left out in the stable with the sheep! —was coming to establish his throne reign forever, with a kingdom that *knows no end*. A kingdom of light.

Week 14: A Candle in the Darkness

Read: Isaiah 9:1-7

Jesus is the light that came into a dark world. Our traditions of Christmas are very fitting to celebrate this—streets practically *explode* in lights, as we light up trees, houses, malls and cities with lights, bells and angels! Christmas explodes in light, as we remember that unto us, *the light of the world is born*. More than the trees, we also watch the faces of children light up at Christmas, like the happiest candles who glow in awe at the lights of Christmas! What hope and joy they have in the wonder of Christmas! Maybe this year, you will watch more closely as our city lights up for Christmas—see these lights coming from the darkness, and remember Jesus coming as our light in the dark.

*What does it mean to you that Jesus is our 'light'?
Who needs Jesus' light today? How can you shine Jesus' light?*

There's strength in light—darkness cannot overcome it. A room is never too dark that it snuffs a lighted candle! Jesus' light is powerful and can overcome all darkness in this world. Can you picture... the shoeboxes we will commission next week, **exploding in Jesus light** when they are opened by children who need hope, overseas this Christmas!



Readings for your Week

Jesus came as light into the world—which the darkness could not overcome!

John 1:1-18
1 John 1:1—2:14

Light to the world
Psalm 27
John 8:12—18
Matthew 5:14—16

