

## Study Guide

**Monday, Dec 26. Read John 8:12.** Many people string lights on their houses and Christmas trees, but how many of those people connect their own traditions to their original meanings. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world,” and we celebrate His coming into our dark world. Celebrating Jesus’ birthday includes the fun of stringing-up lights, but it must also include the challenge of turning our own dark hearts into beacons of light. This Christmas, have you felt a nudge to step-out of your comfort zone to witness to Jesus’ coming into the world?

**Tuesday, Dec 27. Read Isaiah 60:1-3.** Light beams have physical force, and scientists can measure how much light is required to lift a penny into the air! The prophet declares that God’s people are sources of light: “Arise, shine, for your light has come.” Perhaps your light of faith has more force than you realize. You can move mountains with a small amount of faith, said Jesus. You may not see the results of your work, but the force of your faithfulness and witness has great impact. Knowing the awesome power and responsibility God has bestowed upon you in this dark world should encourage you to shine your light more generously to those you meet.

**Wednesday, Dec 28. Read Isaiah 60:4-7.** Read today’s scripture and identify the connection of verse six to the Christmas story. While verses 1-3 announce the coming of light into the world, verse 6 prophesies that people will carry gold and incense on a long journey to see that light. This scripture, prophesied hundreds of years before the Christmas story, looked forward to that time when the Wise Men would one day use the Christmas star as a guide to the Christ child. Today, thousands of years later, over 1 billion people on earth are still attracted to the light of Jesus. If you are a follower of Jesus, what would you say to someone who asks you why you’re attracted to Him?

**Thursday, Dec 29. Read Luke 11:33-36.** One night this week, a friend watched a scary movie before going to bed. He admitted that scenes from the movie kept him awake most of the night. The images and scenes had caused emotional and physical changes, which he hadn’t noticed while watching. Jesus said that our eyes are the entranceway of both good and bad things into our inner core. If we truly seek to be full of light, we ought to listen carefully to Jesus’ advice—filling our eyes with things that are spiritually bright. How can you protect your eyes by taking-in only light today?

**Friday, Dec 30.** Chris Tomlin sings the song, “Here I am to Worship.” Read these lyrics twice, and use them as your prayer to God right now. “Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness. Opened my eyes, let me see. Beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you. And here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that you’re my God, You’re altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.”