



*These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.*

## Getting Started

- What traditions do you keep for Christmas? Are they the same or different from the traditions of your childhood?
- What kinds of things get in the way of keeping Jesus in the forefront during the holidays?

## Digging Deeper

1. Why is it so easy to get caught up in a Christmas story that focuses on everything but Jesus?
2. Look at the Christmas story in the Gospels (Matthew 1, Luke 2, John 1). What are the elements they mention? What elements are missing when you compare them to our modern-day Christmas traditions?
3. Look at John 1:1-2. Explain to your group what this verse means.
4. Read John 1:14. What is the Glory that we have seen? What does it mean?
5. The focus verses talk a lot about the darkness. Discuss this darkness as you see it in our modern world.
6. Jesus brings the light that shines in the darkness. Why is this important? How does this change things for you?
7. How would you explain this concept to someone who didn't yet know Jesus?
8. What does Jesus First look like in your Christmas this year? What will you add? What will you change? What will you do different to make sure Jesus is the focus of your life both now, and into the new year?

## Message Recap:

Read John 1:1-14

It's easy to get overwhelmed with all of the details and to-dos of Christmas; get the tree, wrap the gifts, put up the manger scene (complete with camels, wise men and sheep), plan meals, do the shopping, go to holiday parties, and more to do than we might have time for. It is all very fun...and a little tiring. And sometimes all of the festivities of Christmas can take our focus off of the main thing about Christmas: Jesus First. The Gospel of John gives us a simplistic yet profound look at the Christmas story. Jesus, who has existed since before time began, came to the world to give light and life. His light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. Jesus first. Jesus only. Because without Jesus, there would be nothing but darkness in our world.

## Pray

Jesus, I confess that sometimes I let the things and traditions of my life, especially at Christmas, get ahead of you. Forgive me for not putting you first. Help me see how you want me to focus on you, put you first, and share you with the world.

## Living Jesus

Without Jesus, there would be nothing but darkness in our world. Darkness is home to everything that steals, kills, and destroys. But Jesus came so we would have light. That light pushes back the darkness and makes room for love, joy, hope, and peace. Jesus brings relationship. So Jesus must come first. Jesus first, Jesus only. Jesus for you. Jesus for the world. How will you live Jesus first?