



Older Small Group Guide Sheet

Date: November 5 & 9

Lesson:	A Light in the Darkness
Call Back:	God Brings Hope
Memory Verse:	Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Scripture:	Read Isaiah 9:1-7 to the students.
Observation:	1. What did the people of Israel mean by being in the dark? (things were bad) 2. In what way were things bad for people? (they were slaves/starving) 3. Did Isaiah bring good news or bad news to the people? (good news) 4. What was it? (there would come a time when there would be joy, freedom, peace and justice) 5. Who would bring about this joy, freedom, peace and justice? (The child/Jesus)
Application:	For a second or two, have students close their eyes and imagine a world where there is no sickness, hurt, hate, fear. Only JOY! Let's praise God for this future! Praising The Light: Tell the students that God is the one who brings every good thing into our world. Each of us will take a turn and name a place, time, or person where we have seen God's light. (Usually, we see God's light anywhere we see love and in anything that is happy, good or beautiful.)

	Take turns "Naming Their Light" and then the group responds with: Praise God, who brings light to dark places. Light Switches: Students will be decorating a light switch in which they will take home to help remind them every time they turn on their lights God is with them. They can write on them "God is Light" or "God Brings Hope".
Prayer:	Dear God, thank you for your light which shines even brighter than all the darkness of this world. Please bring light to dark places. Help us to shine our lights to those around us. Amen

PRE-ACTIVITY - worksheet