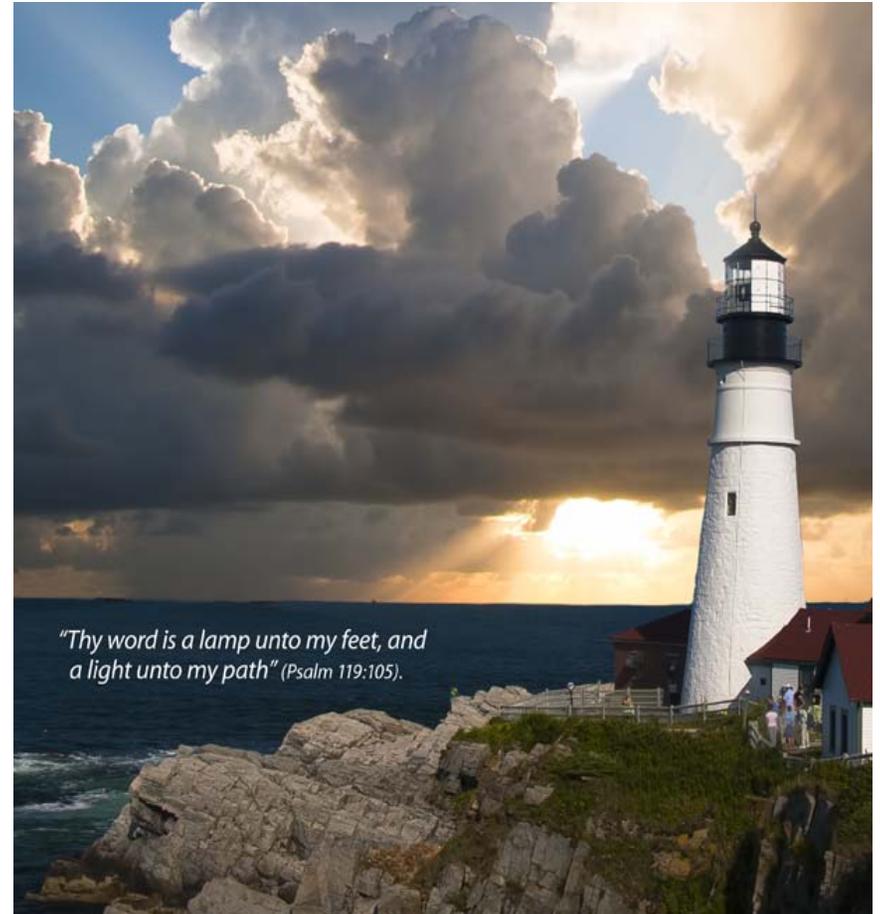


# *The Lighthouse*





Day 4

Unstoppable

*“That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:5*

What is unstoppable? What exists that cannot be overcome? The answer is the Lord. Just as nothing stops the lighthouse from shining at night, nothing is to stop us from shining for the Lord every minute of every day of our lives! Yes, there are going to be trials and afflictions, persecutions and setbacks, but even in the midst of those obstacles, we still have the ability to shine for the Lord every day. The resiliency of a Christian is the mark of a true Christian and rather than giving up, we just shine brighter to bring more glory to the Lord.

The world is going to try to put out the light inside of you, but it can't! Life is going to douse the fire inside of you – don't let it! The Lord's presence in your life will



keep the fire alive as you continue to draw close to Him. He is our unstoppable Savior, showing the ability to save those lost, to bring comfort to the hurting, to redeem those once deemed lost causes, and to help us to shine in a world of darkness, piercing the darkness more and more with each passing hour, with every new day.

Navigational Questions:

How can you keep the fire of Christ burning in your life?

Why is your role as a lighthouse so critical in these times?

## The Lighthouse

A Sermon and Devotional Series on What Guides Us Home

Day 3

## No Darkness, All Light

*“Now this is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in Him.” 1 John 1:5*



JJ Weeks sang, “Let them see You in me”, proclaiming his desire to be a lighthouse in his life. The words are a cry from a heart that longs to impact others in an eternal way, one that brings glory to God, one that leads them to their Savior. Is the same desire inside of us? Do we long to lead them to the place where they can find what will really fulfill them for eternity? If so, we need to be so filled with light and life that it shines throughout our lives! As John wrote about God, there is no darkness in Him at all!

The lighthouse is put in a place for others to see. It is strategically placed to where it will be most effective. Such is the same with our lives. Where we are is not a mistake and who we see is no mistake. It is an opportunity. This is the chance for us to shine in such a way that a life is impacted forever. Though we cannot see all the workings of the Lord, we can have confidence He has placed us where we are so we can radiate His light to a world mired in darkness. Stand in the light and project the light of Christ for all to see each day.

Navigational Question:

How can the Lord be using you where you are right now that you may not have thought about before?

## Day 2

### Sons of the Light

*“For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness.” 1 Thessalonians 5:5*

Family members have something in common. Though we have distinct differences, there is always a little something that ties us back to the family we are a part of. The way we say something, the shape of our faces, or even the shape of our nose can be something that tells people we are related to a certain group of people. Lighthouses come in different shapes and colors, but they hold one thing in common – they all give off light. No matter how different they may be, where they are located, how tall they are, they all give off light which is what makes each one a lighthouse.



We are called sons of the light and of the day. The meaning of that verse is that what we hold in common, Jesus, is seen in our lives as we keep ourselves in the light. We may be different as individuals but walking in the

light is what we should all hold in common. Being a lighthouse means that the light is a definitive characteristic of who we are, a staple of our lives. Does the lost world see us as something different, shining in a world of darkness or do they simply see a reflection of their lives in us?

#### Navigational Questions

If you were to ask people, what would they say they see in you – a reflection of the Lord or a reflection of the world?

### Introduction

The Lord is the One who guides us back to the shore in the times where we are desperately searching for safe harbor. There are the rough waters of chaos in life, the times where we need to find the peace of the stable shoreline. The fog of the world leads to uncertainty in the path that needs to be charted. Tossing waves of hopelessness can feel like we are going to be overtaken. But there is a lighthouse to lead us to the shoreline.

The devotionals in this devotional guide are meant to call all of us back to the place where we can find safe harbor for our soul. Regardless of where we are in our journey with the Lord, I pray that this series is a refreshing reminder of the hope we have in Jesus, that there stands a lighthouse on the shore that is shining for us and calls out to us.

Pray this month that we see the hand of the Lord move in our lives as individuals and in the life of our church. There is a place where safe harbor is found and the Lord is the light that guides us to that place.





## Day 2

### Rescued from Sin

*“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this dying body? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

*Romans 7:24-25*

Of all the things that we can fix in our lives, one issue we could never fix is the problem of sin in our lives. As Paul wrote to the Romans, he talked about the problem that sin causes in us. As he discusses the power of sin, he then transitions to the power of God. Hopelessness becomes hopeful when the Lord reminds us that He is in the rescuing business.

A ship that is broken is a ship that is in need of help. Just as a vessel on the open waters longs for the light of a rescue vehicle, we needed the light of Christ to remind us that He is able to rescue us from the brokenness sin has caused in our lives. We have a rescuer, One who is able to bring us in and the issues we cannot fix on our own.



fix

Navigational Questions:

How has Christ set you free from sins in your past?

Remembering when you received salvation, what did it feel like to know the Lord had rescued you from eternal death?

## Day 5

### So All Can See

*“In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16*

If the light of a lighthouse doesn't shine, the lighthouse is only half-functional. The light is necessary as the light guides those on open waters to the place where they can find rest and refuge. Why is the passage from Matthew so important and why should our light be seen in the community in which the church has been placed? The church is meant to be seen. The work of the church in the community glorifies the Lord when it is done for the Lord.

Being involved in the community helps us to be the lighthouse we are called to be in the community. The faith that exists here should extend beyond the walls of the structure in the hopes that the reach of this lighthouse will extend throughout the area. A world in despair can look up to see that there is hope when the lighthouse shines in the good and the bad times. The church must have a faith that is seen, not hidden, active and alive in the community in which it was planted.

Navigational Questions:

What active part do you play in the church's involvement in the community?

Why does the church?



community need

## Day 4

### Weather the Storm

*“The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.” Matthew 7:25*

When hurricanes hit, houses are torn to shreds as the winds rip off siding and roofs. Piers are torn apart from the battering of the waves, unable to take the prolonged beating of the elements. What remains after these storms are the lighthouses. Though facing the same elements and enduring equal punishment, these beacons of light are constructed in such a manner that they stand. As the church is called to be a lighthouse in the community, it is called to stand regardless of what times and elements it has to face.

The foundation dictates a lot about the devastation that could come from the elements. If the church is founded and grounded on Christ, it is built to last, to stand strong during and after the storm, weathering all that the world throws at it. If the church is acting upon the words of Jesus, it has the strength to stand regardless of what may come, relying on the strength of the Lord to stand against the forces of the world. In days like these, we need lighthouses that remain, that continue standing for what is right and shining a light, regardless of what storms the church may endure.

Navigational Questions:

How can the church do a better job of having a foundation in Christ?

How can you deepen your foundation in Christ?

## Day 3

### Only God

*“If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king.” Daniel 3:17*

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were facing a situation that they were powerless to overcome on their own. Instead of compromising their convictions, they stood for the Lord and proclaimed the Lord as their way to overcome the fiery furnace they were sentenced to endure. Nebuchadnezzar scoffed that no one could rescue them, but the three faithful servants put their faith in the Father to overcome the flames.

Only God can keep us from ultimate destruction. When the flames are rising and the ship seems to be destined for the depths of the seas, the Lord is on a rescue mission that, at the end, will bring Him glory, even amongst non-believers. Who can rescue us today? Only God can rescue us. When man says there is no way, the Lord reminds us that He is the way.

Navigational Questions

When man says no one can rescue us, why must we refocus even more on the Lord?

How does God’s faithfulness to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego encourage us?





### Day 4

#### The Lighthouse Promises Safe Harbor

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom should I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom should I be  
afraid?” Psalm 27:1*

One of the beautiful psalms of David where the image of a lighthouse is seen in these words. David says that the Lord is his light and salvation. These attributes are only found in the Lord and when we stop to think about these words, we are reminded that the Lord is calling us to Himself, just as He did with David. Are you trying to find a harbor today? Are you desperately searching in life for solid ground?

A purpose for the lighthouse is to show those on shaky waters that there is dry land ahead. The calling is for those on the unstable waters to come ashore to where there is stability. For our souls, such is the same with the Lord. The instability of the world is overcome when we see Him as the light calling us to the place of stability in Him, where He is our salvation and the rock upon which we stand.

#### Navigational Questions

How does the Lord give you stability each day?



### Day 3

#### Here's Your Point of Navigation

*“For the Son of Man has come to seek  
and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10*

Lighthouses were meant to help those out on the open waters find their way back home. It was not meant for cars, though I am sure some use them as a point of reference in their driving. The lighthouse was placed where it is for the purpose of the ship. Equally, the church is called to the mission of Jesus, not to prop up the redeemed, but to do exactly what Jesus did. We are to be a lighthouse where the lost can find their way home.

As Jesus talked to Zacchaeus, He was speaking to one who had a long list of sins. Rather than focusing all of His time and attention on the ones who were already following Him, Jesus turned His attention to the tax collector, then revealed why by saying that He had come to seek and to save those who were lost, those who could not find their way home on their own. When churches begin to focus on reaching the lost, they become the lighthouses that they are called to be because they are joining with the Lord in carrying out the very mission He revealed in His conversation with Zacchaeus.

#### Navigational Questions:

Why should the church focus more on the lost than on themselves?

How can you better help the church to reach the lost?

## Day 2

### Set Apart to Stand Out

*“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.” Matthew 5:14*

Have you ever noticed how the Lord positioned our church? Atop a hill, the house of the Lord stands, the steeple reaching towards the heavens, the position of the church towering high for all to see. The location of the church is no coincidence. Divine appointment by the Lord placed this church exactly where it is, calling attention to the Lord’s house in our community. But here is what we must understand. The church is called to be set apart from this world, standing out in the world rather than blending in with the world.

Another aspect of a lighthouse’s paint scheme is that it is dictated by the landscape around. Rather than choosing colors that will blend in, lighthouses are painted in such a way that they stand out from the landscape. If the landscape is dark, the lighthouse is painted a lighter color. Why? Because the lighthouse needs to be visible, not blending in, but standing out so those who need it can find it. The same can be said of the church. The church never needs to blend in with culture, but should stand out, so that all can see that it is the place where they can find what they need.



#### Navigational Questions:

Why does the church need to stand out rather than blend in with culture?

## Day 5

### Consistently Shining

*“I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you up when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you; I will bear and save you.” Isaiah 46:4*

If you have used flashlights for extended times during your life, you know what it is like when the batteries begin to die on the flashlight. The light begins to decrease, the strength of the light weakened by the amount of charge in the batteries. Eventually, the light flickers and before long, it completely goes away. The light itself is only as good as the batteries powering it.

The Lord tells Israel in Isaiah that He will remain the same. The light will continue to shine because the light is the Lord, powered by the Lord, and a reflection of the Lord in the times of darkness. And at the end of the verse, the Lord promises salvation. He is consistently shining the light of salvation for all to come to Him. His light does not flicker and does not grow dim over time, but shines bright each day for all to see.

#### Navigational Questions:

What does the consistency of the Lord mean to you?

As the hope exists for all, that shed a to all peo-



of salvation how does light of hope ple?

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Sermon Notes

Light of Life Verses: \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord is our Lighthouse:

Focal Passage for the Sermon: \_\_\_\_\_

Three things to remember about the lighthouse:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

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Day 1

Keep It in Focus

*“So they got rid of the foreign gods among them and worshipped the Lord, and He became weary of Israel’s misery.”*

*Judges 10:16*

For the church to be the lighthouse it is called to be in our community, the church must be holy and pure. A lighthouse is a pure and guiding light, leading vessels to safety, focused on preservation of life and not destruction. A lighthouse without a light is only good during the day. A lighthouse misplaced is good for nothing. The church is called to be a lighthouse but can only be the lighthouse it is called to be if it is adhering to the purpose it was called to when it was formed.

Very easily, the church can fail in its effort to be a lighthouse by allowing other gods to enter inside. Of course, no Christian church is going to feature Buddha in the vestibule, but there are other idols that can creep in and diminish the effectiveness of the church. Arguments over worship style, self-centered thinking, loss of missional focus, and man-centered worship can easily destroy the church which was meant to stand. The community needs the church to be the lighthouse for the community. The church needs the Lord to provide the light. Effectiveness of the church is directly related to authentic worship and service to the Lord.

Navigational Questions:

How can the church become more effective as a lighthouse in our community?

What is your role in helping the church to be the lighthouse it is called to be?

Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

Sermon Notes

Light of Life Verses: \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord is our Lighthouse:

Focal Passage for the Sermon: \_\_\_\_\_

Three things to remember about the church being a lighthouse:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes:

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Day 1

Light Dawns

*“Light dawns for the righteous, gladness for the upright in heart.” Psalm 97:11*

Storms rage in life. Out on the open waters, when a storm is raging in the night, the glimpse of the light projected from a lighthouse brings a relief to those who are battling through the storm. The light shining is the reminder that there is not too much further to go. The light says that there is shelter ahead. The light says that there is hope.

We go through times of incredible darkness in life. Due to the storms raging and the afflictions that day to day life can bring, we can feel like the darkness surrounding us will overcome us at any moment. Then, we look to the light of the world, Jesus Christ, who reminds us that the truth of Psalm 97 applies to us each and every day. The despair of the darkness is broken when the light dawns and when we can see that we only have but a short way to go to get to solid ground.

Navigational Questions:

What point in your life seemed like the time of greatest darkness?

Explain how the light shining of a new day dawning, when you had come out of that time of darkness, gave you strength to keep pressing on.



## Day 2

### The Source

*“Lord, You are my lamp; the Lord illuminates my darkness.” 2 Samuel 22:29*

When we go through the troublesome times, when we are adrift in troublesome waters, too often we are looking for a source of light in all the wrong places. We hope that others can inject a light in the darkness, and sometimes they can for a moment, but not consistently. We look to accomplishments to try to get our bearings straight and remind us that there is hope but accomplishments are sporadic. We look to a variety of people, places, and things in the hopes that one will shine a light.

David wrote a song of thanksgiving and in it, he speaks of the source of light in his life. Rather than man or the world being what gave him the light he needed to get through the darkness, he points directly to the Lord. The Lord is our lamp and illuminates our darkness in every season, pulling us out of the darkness and guiding us even closer to Him. With each step towards the Lord, we see how the light grows brighter.

#### Navigational Questions:

What does it mean that the Lord illuminates the darkness?

How is the Lord our lamp for life?



## Day 5

### What You Don't Know Can Kill You

*“The revelation of Your words brings light and gives understanding to the inexperienced.” Psalm 119:130*

The coast of North Carolina, specifically the area near Cape Hatteras, is known as the “Graveyard of the Atlantic.” The convergence of two currents is a recipe for disaster and rocky areas have sunken many inexperienced, and experienced, sailors over time. In fact, since the 1500's, over two thousand ships have been swallowed up in the Atlantic Ocean in the area known as the “Graveyard of the Atlantic”. Think about that for a moment. How many lives have been lost simply because they didn't know what they were facing?

The lighthouse at Cape Hatteras serves as a warning to those who draw near and those who seek to survive the area are wise to study the area before approaching. The Bible serves us like the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. Where we don't know or understand life, the Bible gives us light to see and understanding that helps overcome our inexperience. It is preparing us for what may come as it guides us to where we need to go.



#### Navigational Questions:

How can a lack of experience in any field lead to destruction?

How does the Bible prepare us for what we may not have experienced before?

## Day 4

### A Lamp, A Light, A Lord and Savior

*“Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.”*

*Psalm 119:105*

The purpose of the paint schemes on a lighthouse is to help sailors know where they are located. The paint schemes vary, such as the white and black swirls on Cape Hatteras and the black and white diamonds at Cape Lookout. At night, when the sailor cannot see the paint scheme, they can look to the pattern of the light being radiated from the lighthouse to know which lighthouse they are nearest to at that point. These lighthouses help guide the way for those who are close enough in proximity to see.



The Bible is the same for us. It is the Word of God and it is lighting the way for us in good times and in the tougher times. The Word of God is there to guide us through the brightest days of life and through the darkest nights. The Bible is a lighthouse for our soul, reminding us of where we are, how to get to where we want to be, and directing us closer to the Lord, who serves as the eternal light for us. As the storms come, when the darkest of nights is upon us, the Word of God sheds light on all things and helps us to continue the path that He has set before us.

Navigational Question:

How much time do you spend in the Bible typically?

How can an increase in time in the Bible help you to navigate through life?

## Day 3

### Help to Overcome

*“Lord, You light my lamp; my God illuminates my darkness. With You I can attack a barrier, and with my God I can leap over a wall.” Psalm 18:28-29*

You are not alone. You may be in a fight for your life right now or you may face such a night later on in your life, but the reminder in Scripture is that You are not alone. When we feel alone, the darkness seems to grow around us. When we remember that the Lord is with us, we know that light will come. We look for Him in the middle of the storm and we know that with Him, even in the middle of the storm, we can do more with Him by our side than we could without Him.

The light of the Lord’s presence gives us strength beyond what we would have on our own. Look not to the storm that is raging or the darkness that seems to be building from every corner. We, as children of the Lord, look to the light that shines in the darkness, the very light that the darkness could not overcome no matter how hard the darkness tried. There is help to overcome and like David said, with God we can attack barriers and leap over walls.

Navigational Questions:

Knowing that the Lord is with you, how does that help in the middle of the storm?

How does His help make the darkness seem less overwhelming?

