



I. INTRO/EVIEW

- A. Great joy in the city

Acts 8:5, 8 (NKJV) Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them... And there was great joy in that city.

- B. A city is made up of individual lights

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

II. LESSONS FROM A STAR

- A. The Christmas star
B. A picture of the church

Genesis 1:16 (TLB) For God had made two huge lights, the sun and moon, to shine down upon the earth—the larger one, the sun, to preside over the day and the smaller one, the moon, to preside through the night; he had also made the stars.

- The moon represents the church
 - The moon shines with light it reflects from the sun

He made the stars also ...

III. LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

- A. Stars make you look up

Genesis 15:5 (NLT) Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

A star is a body that has been placed in the heavens and given light for the purpose of making people look up.

- **Stars used for navigation**
 - What you’re focused on today will determine what your story is tomorrow
- Today more than ever we need people who are going to make others look up

- B. Stars make you consider the creator

Isaiah 40:26 (NLT) Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out one after another, calling each by its name. And he counts them to see that none are lost or have strayed away.



- **Do you know you're not who you used to be?**
- Your life and testimony will cause other people consider the Creator

C. Stars are full of praise

Psalm 148:1-3 (NLT) Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him from the skies! Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven! Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

Psalm 30:11-12 (NLT) You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!

D. Stars lead people to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-2 (NLT) Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

Daniel 12:3 (NLT) Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.

IV. ARISE AND SHINE

A. We reflect the light of Jesus

Isaiah 60:1 (TLB) Arise, my people! Let your light shine for all the nations to see! For the glory of the Lord is streaming from you.

B. Esther became a star and saved her people

Esther 2:7 (NLT) This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.

- Hadassah is the Hebrew name for Esther meaning “**new**”
- Esther is the Persian name which means “**star**”

Esther 4:14 (TLB) If you keep quiet at a time like this, God will deliver the Jews from some other source, but you and your relatives will die; what's more, who can say but that God has brought you into the palace for just such a time as this?”

Matthew 5:14 (NLT) “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

- **Everyone can do more than someone**