

Growing Deeper
Unbreakable Promises

Week One: *To Enlighten the World*
Isaiah 11:1-5

Spend FIFTEEN–Day One

1. In our modern-day society, we're rarely in true physical darkness (nightlights, phones, streetlights). Where is the darkest place you've ever been?
2. The dark is a universally unsettling concept, most kids are instinctually afraid of it. What about the dark is most unsettling to you?
3. What do kids do when they become afraid of the dark at night?
4. When you're going through a dark time, what's your knee-jerk reaction?
5. Read [Isaiah 24:6-7](#), How does knowing that Jesus can bring light into our darkness make you feel?
6. God makes it clear that he sent Jesus to be the light of the world. When in a dark place, light is innately comforting. Spend the remainder of your FIFTEEN asking God to remind you in dark times, that he is there to serve as a light in dark times and to bring comfort. The madidate on the comfort that brings while you listed to this song, https://www.google.com/search?q=my+lighthouse+song&rlz=1C1CHBD_enUS849US849&oq=my+lighthouse+song&aqs=chrome..69i57j46j0l6.659j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Spend FIFTEEN–Day Two

7. Take a moment to read the words prophesied about Jesus in [Isaiah 24:6-7](#). Describe where were we before Jesus set us free?
8. Which is worse imprisonment or darkness in your mind? What makes the combination of the two so scary?
9. In [Isaiah 24:6-7](#), we are equated to captives held in prison before Jesus sets us free. What is something holding you captive right now?
10. Is the thing that holds you captive shrouded in darkness? What do you think would happen if you brought it to Jesus?

11. What would happen if you brought it into the light of day by sharing it with a trusted person. (along with Jesus!)
12. Spend the remainder of your FIFTEEN in prayer thanking God for setting us free from darkness and asking him to remind us we are no longer prisoners to our sin.

Spend FIFTEEN—Day Three

13. Some things are more comfortable to do in the dark, why is that? (think beyond the practicality of sleeping)
14. Read Isaiah 11:1-5 if God does not judge with his eyes and ears, what or how does he judge?
15. Read Psalm 139:1-18 aloud quietly to yourself as a prayer. What emotions do these words evoke for you?
16. While these words demonstrate how cherished we are as God's children and the infinite knowledge he has, they can be kind of unsettling as well. We're sinful people and knowing that God knows everything about us means he knows just that — *everything*. Read Psalm 139:18, where is God when we awake?
17. Because of Jesus, even though God is intimately aware of our sins and shortcomings, he set us free and calls us his children. He loves us regardless of anything we do. Spend the remainder of your FIFTEEN reflecting on how God knows you inside and out still loves you.

Spend FIFTEEN—Day Four

18. When is the last time someone said "I don't know, google it," when you asked them a question?
19. With our constant access to information (think smartphones, laptops, Alexa), it can be easy to feel like we can handle any unknown that comes our way. But darkness is a different kind of unknown, it's deeper and more elusive. Take a moment to reflect on this year. What is one problem you're struggling with that you cannot Google the answer to?
20. For some of us (probably all of us), it may have been difficult to think of *only one* unknown. How often do you find yourself thinking about this struggle?
21. Omniscience is a theological term attributed to God. It means having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight or possessed of universal or complete knowledge. God doesn't just know what's going to happen, he understands it. How does this change your perspective on your unknown?

22. Brainstorm some practical steps you can take to remember in times of uncertainty that your unknown, is not unknown to God.
23. End your FIFTEEN by reading Psalm 147:1-11. Meditate specifically on Psalm 147:5 and how limitless God's understanding truly is.

Spend FIFTEEN–Day Five

24. Christmas lights are a time-honored tradition to celebrate the season, even for those who are not Christians. Why are lights so impactful at Christmas? What emotions do they evoke?
25. Read Isaiah 42:16. Again these words prophesy of Jesus, the coming Savior. How does this passage describe the way Jesus light comes to us?
26. Often at Christmas, we read the familiar account of Jesus's birth in Luke 2. But John has a very different way of announcing Jesus' arrival on Earth, Read John 1:1-14. What was not able to overcome the light of Jesus? (vs. 5)
27. How does knowing that darkness cannot ever overcome the light of Jesus impact the way you live your life?
28. End you your FIFTEEN in prayer. Use the words of this song to mediate on the hope we have because Jesus, our true light has come to us. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e_2t4vHugo