



# Sermon Growth Guide

**December 14, 2025**

**Exposure, John 3:16-21**

**Key Verse:** John 3:21 “But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.”

**Big Idea:** We don’t want to be exposed. We don’t want a decent exposure! Something in us prefers the dark where we can stay hidden. What do we do when our deeds are exposed? Everything hidden will one day be revealed. There is forgiveness in Jesus.

## Foundations

Our Advent and Christmas series for 2025 focuses on the theme of Everlasting Light. Lights are everywhere during this special and sacred season! Stores are decorated. Homes are decorated. Streets are decorated. And First Pres is decorated. Thousands of lights illuminate these places as a testimony that light and salvation has come to the world in the person of Jesus Christ. We are reminded what the Prophet Isaiah said of this, more than 700 years before the birth of Jesus, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. But how people and things react to light is interesting. Sometimes, light is welcomed and embraced with joy. We see things more clearly. We feel safer because things that are hidden in darkness become exposed. And there’s the warm glow of a rising sun, signaling that a new day has begun. But other times, light is unwelcome because it exposes the things that are hidden, dangerous and unholy. There’s a reason why criminals typically commit their crimes at night when darkness covers their deeds. Today’s sermon from John 3:16-21 is entitled Exposed. John offers a powerful contrast between light and darkness and leans into the tension of our reluctance to come out of the darkness and into the light of Christ. But God’s design for humanity is for us to be children of light. Ephesians 5:8 says, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)... The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus, as the Light of the World, has come and lovingly exposed us to the truth and power of a life made new. Hallelujah!

## Understanding God’s Word

Read John 3:16-21. Since one of the important principles of biblical interpretation is for scripture to interpret scripture, take a few minutes to also read and reflect on these scripture passages: Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah 60:1-3, Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12, and Ephesians 5:8-14. Having looked at these passages, what patterns and themes do you find?

## Applying God’s Word

Since the clear and compelling message of the Gospel is the call to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and allow his light to transform us and pull us out of darkness, in what ways in your own life have you found this to be true? Can you identify areas in your life where you’d rather remain in darkness? What prevents you from abandoning these areas and fully step into the light of Christ? In the areas of your life where you have stepped into the light of Christ, what differences have you noticed? What differences have other people noticed?

## Witnessing God’s Word

As the light of Christ transforms us, our worldview changes, our attitudes change, and our behaviors change. Some of this is a natural progression of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. But there is also a conscious decision to act as children of light and consciously seek to bring the light of Christ to the world. In what ways can you give witness to the light of Christ in you, and the call upon your life to be Christ’s light of the world?