



## Key References:

### Isaiah 60:1–3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

### Matthew 9:36–38 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

### John 13:34–35 (ESV)

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### 1 – THEY WERE HARASSED AND HELPLESS

Read Matthew 9:36-38. How do the words “helpless and harassed” translate into our situation?

How is the world waking up to the realization that we’re not in as much control as we’d like to be? How does the gospel change our perspective of current circumstances?

Jesus saw the helpless crowd as a harvest field. Do you think he would say the same today? How should we respond?

### 2 – ARISE AND SHINE

Read Ephesians 3:8-11 and discuss.

Read Isaiah 60:1-3. How does verse 2 relate to us now? How should we react to the promise in verse 3?

How is God calling the church to arise right now?

Read Matthew 5:14-16. Sometimes we can be timid about the light we have to shine. How is God building courage in you right now to show that light instead of hiding it away?

### 3 – BY ALL THIS THEY WILL KNOW

Read John 13:34-35. How have you seen people showing love for one another around the world? Even though we are supposed to be distant from our neighbors right now what are different ways that we can be loving?

## Additional References:

### **Matthew 4:15–17 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— <sup>16</sup> the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

### **1 Peter 2:9–12 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

### **Hebrews 10:19–24 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

### **Ephesians 3:8–11 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. <sup>9</sup> I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.

<sup>10</sup> God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.