Light Up Christmas - Light & Hope

Pastor Mark Wilks, JOHN 3:1-21

Big Idea: The reason for the season is <u>Sin</u>.

1. Light is hope because it reveals truth.

- "Born again" means something has to happen to you that you can't do.
- Jesus' response proves Jesus is GOD because He answers the question in Nic's heart.
- Nicodemus is really asking, "Jesus, HOW can you promise a new start?"

2. Light is hope because it gives us <u>direction</u>.

- A new birth is a <u>new start</u> and gives me a <u>new hope</u>.
- Being born again is about recognizing our state of <u>helplessness</u>, and letting the Holy Spirit lift our <u>eyes to the</u> <u>Cross</u>.
- New direction moves me from <u>self-reliance</u> to reliance upon the <u>grace of Christ</u>.

3. Light is hope because it gives us focus.

- Christmas is about <u>choices</u>! Where will I <u>put my hope</u>?
- For much of the world Christ is just like Christmas, here today forgotten tomorrow.
- Jesus did not come to force us out of the darkness.