

**Encounter these verses today:**  
*circle words that you identify with,  
underline phrases or sentences you'd  
like to remember, write questions about  
the passage out to the side ...*



## Acts 9:1-9 :: Saul's Conversion

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

## Luke 2:8-15 :: Angels visit the Shepherds

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

# illuminate

*Welcoming the Light of the World!*

December 04, 2011 | Pastor Terry Bate

*Have you ever felt left in the dark about something?*

### **Reflect on this idea ...**

The Light of Jesus Reveals the Truth while darkness Conceals it.

### **Two Stories of Light Revealing ...**

The Light appeared to **Saul** and revealed his \_\_\_\_\_.

It also put him on the right path! (how?)

The Light appeared to **Shepherds** and revealed their \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you struggle feeling accepted by God? (how?)

### **In what ways could the Light reveal things in your life?**

**"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."**

(2 Corinthians 4:6)



Download this sermon & outline at [www.flushingcommunity.org](http://www.flushingcommunity.org)

# Digging Deeper

[Engaging the message throughout the week]

## Monday: 12.05.2011

**Prayer Focus:** The Flushing Community

**Passage:** 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

**Insight:** *Do you ever feel like no one sees the same things you see? Does it seem that your opinions don't line up with the vast majority of others around you? As a believer and follower of Christ, it can often feel that way. When the light of God shines in your life, it changes how you think and feel about everything.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*What has God revealed to you recently that was good?*

*What has God revealed to you recently that wasn't good and required change on your part?*

## Tuesday: 12.06.2011

**Prayer Focus:** FCC Church Leadership

**Passage:** Micah 5

**Insight:** *Our Tuesdays for this series will focus on Old Testament prophesy about Jesus. The Prophet Micah spoke about a ruler who would come from Bethlehem - a poor and small village that no one paid much attention to. God often uses the small to shame the large; the simple to confuse the wise.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Why do you think it was important that Micah foretell the location of the Messiah's birth?*

*Do you find comfort in knowing that God chose a marginalized town like Bethlehem to be the birthplace of Jesus?*

## Wednesday: 12.07.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Upward Basketball & Cheer

**Passage:** Luke 1:26-38

**Insight:** *Our Advent Season is all about preparing our hearts for the arrival of the Messiah - Jesus. Mary is seen in our reading today as a young woman who had found favor with God. She finds favor with us because she gave birth to Christ - but her integrity and obedience was never in doubt when the Lord looked at her.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Do you desire to have the faith to say yes to God like Mary did?*

*How can we find favor with God like this?*

## Thursday: 12.08.2011

**Prayer Focus:** May God Reveal His Light to You

**Passage:** Psalm 67

**Insight:** *Thursdays will be a day to read from the book of Psalms. Today we are struck by "his face shining upon us." This was a phrase that often is used to call out on God's blessings in our life. This Psalm certainly worships the Lord's strength and power and seeks to bless the Him in return.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Has there been a time in your life when you have felt the Lord shine his blessings down upon you?*

*Why do you think that His face shines on some and not others?*

## Friday: 12.09.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Our church worship services (12/11)

**Passage:** Matthew 14:13-21

**Insight:** *Our focus for this Sunday will shift from the Light revealing to the Light attracting. We know bugs are attracted to light but so are we. We like to be outside in the light rather than at night. Life is much busier during the day. When Jesus walked the earth, his light often attracted large crowds. Today's passage is one such time and it says that has Jesus looked over this crowd of 5,000+ people he had compassion on them.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Do you find Jesus to be attractive spiritually?*

*Isaiah told us that the Messiah would not be humanly attractive but would draw people to himself by his love. Has Jesus' love and forgiveness been an attracting element of your faith?*

*How is attraction to the Light different than "guilted" toward the light?*



*If you are interested in joining our iPray Team that will be interceding our concerns for the church, our community and nation, send Pastor Terry an email or fill out the "Got Involved" insert this morning!*