

MERRY
and Bright

NOVEMBER NIGHT

Ladies Night Out

“You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden... Let your light so shine before others.” Matthew 5:14

Plan a festive & joy filled evening with your ladies as you prepare your hearts for the Christmas season. As Christmas approaches, let's pause to celebrate the joy and light that Jesus brings.

Arrival

As ladies arrive have Christmas music quietly playing in the background. If you know someone who can play a musical instrument (piano, violin) this would add a special touch to your evening.

You could prepare a Christmas table talk activity for each table. Christmas Table talk cards are a perfect way to build relationships and make connections as the ladies share stories and reminisce around their table. Women's Ministry Toolbox website has some printable cards to help with conversation, or you can create your own.

<https://womensministrytoolbox.com/christmas-table-talk-cards-free-printable/>

Set up a Christmas drink station so that ladies can enjoy a hot/cold beverage as they arrive. You could ask someone from a local café or someone from your corps/community that specializes in making festive drinks to assist with this. Pinterest.com has some great ideas for decorating and drink suggestions.



Use a photo booth with sparkle props for ladies to take pictures together to capture the memory of the evening. You can purchase background drops and photo props on [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca). at an affordable price. You can also set up a photo background using your own Christmas decorations with a Christmas tree and other props.



Icebreaker: Merry or Not? A fun “this or that” Christmas version

This game can be played as a group or around the table. It’s a fun way to break the ice or serve as a quick fun game to start your night. Read each pair of options aloud. Ladies choose which they prefer by raising a paper plate with “This” on one side and “That” on the other. You could also use a thumbs up for “This” and thumbs down for “That.”

Here are some Questions: Hot chocolate or Apple Cider, Real tree or Fake tree, Silent Night or Jingle bells, Sugar cookies or Gingerbread cookies, Turkey or Ham, Christmas sweater or Christmas pajamas, Wrapping paper or Gift bag, Elf or Home Alone, Cozy Christmas P.Js or a Sparkly Christmas Dress...

Décor Ideas

Theme colors – soft gold, twinkle white, cranberry red, forest green. Include fairy lights or LED candles or lanterns to create a cozy atmosphere.

Tables can be beautifully decorated with white, red, or green table clothes, burlap runners with pinecones, mini lights, sprigs of greenery and holly berries. [Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) has some beautiful table decorating and centerpiece ideas.



Table Favor ideas – Wrapped Christmas Sugar cookies, Holiday Potpourri, Homemade Christmas Candle, etc.



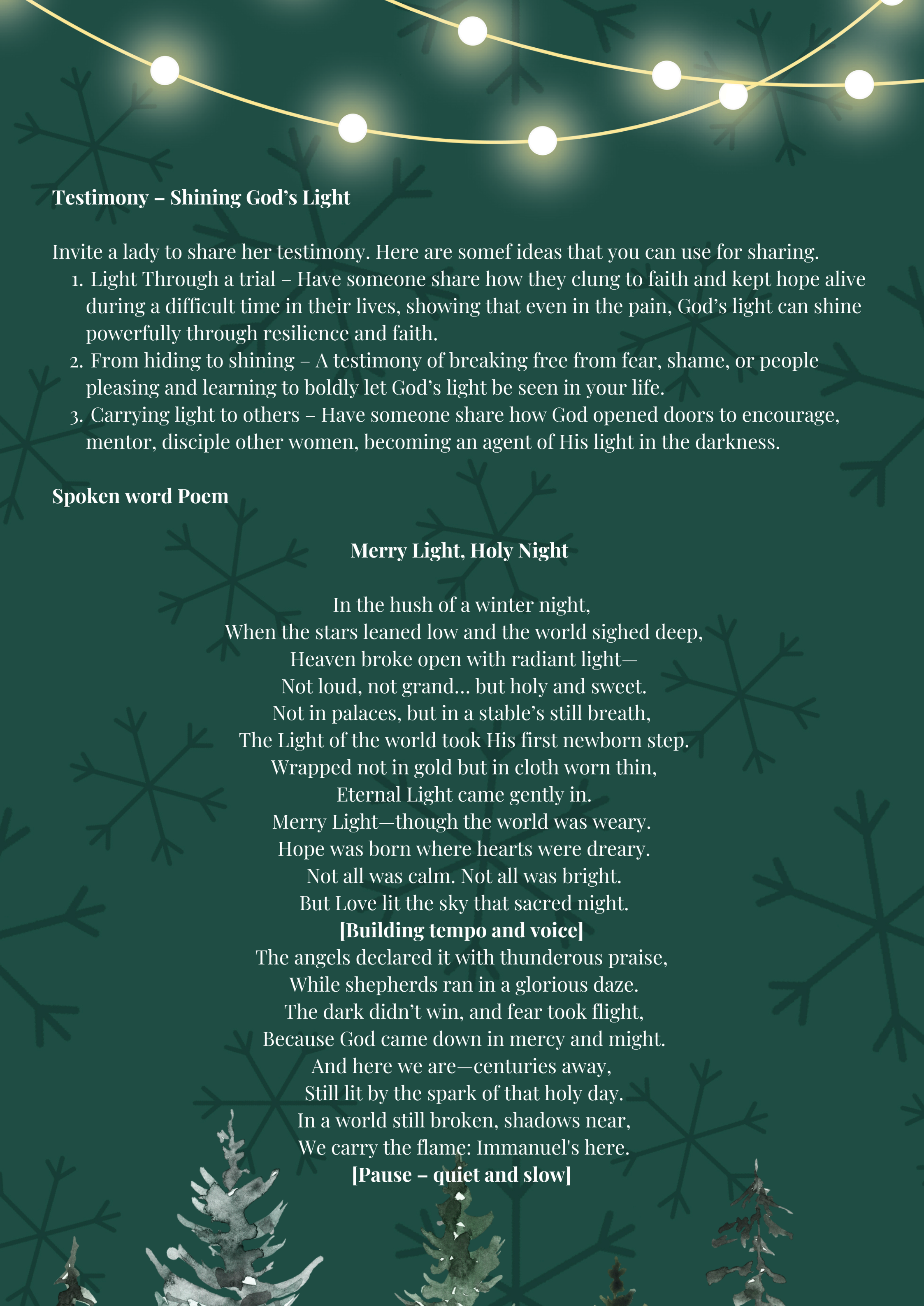
Taste Testing/Giveaways

Throughout the night have “elves” (Men or Youth from your corps/ministry unit) rush around the room carrying trays of giveaways, food samples, festive drinks, etc. This is a fun way to share some of your favorite Christmas Hors d'Oeuvres and Treats with your ladies.



Christmas Demonstration Ideas

You can invite a guest from a community business to come and share a Christmas demonstration with your ladies, or you may have someone in your ministry unit do the demo. It could be anything from a Christmas Wreath Making, Beautiful Gift-Wrapping Ideas, Table Centerpiece, Christmas Dessert, How to create a festive Charcuterie board, DIY Christmas Ornament, etc.



Testimony – Shining God’s Light

Invite a lady to share her testimony. Here are some ideas that you can use for sharing.

1. Light Through a trial – Have someone share how they clung to faith and kept hope alive during a difficult time in their lives, showing that even in the pain, God’s light can shine powerfully through resilience and faith.
2. From hiding to shining – A testimony of breaking free from fear, shame, or people pleasing and learning to boldly let God’s light be seen in your life.
3. Carrying light to others – Have someone share how God opened doors to encourage, mentor, disciple other women, becoming an agent of His light in the darkness.

Spoken word Poem

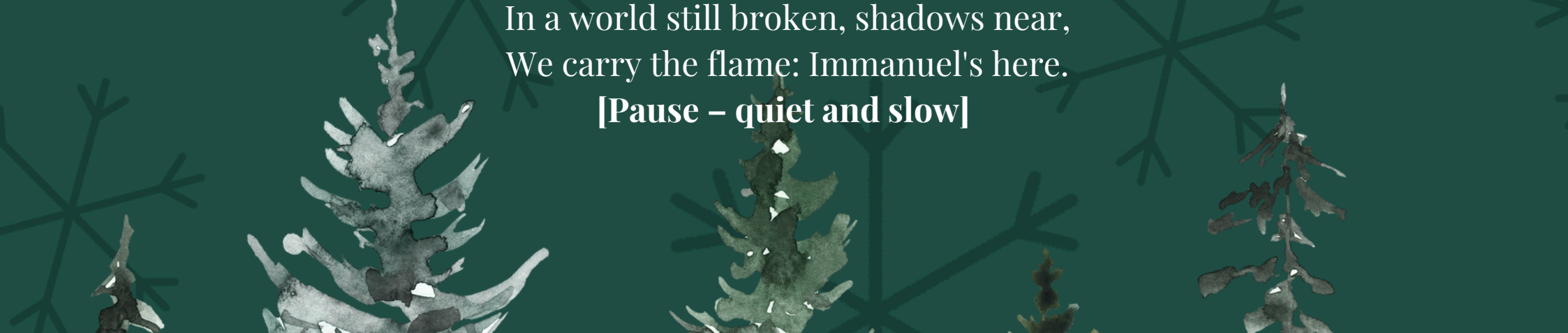
Merry Light, Holy Night

In the hush of a winter night,
When the stars leaned low and the world sighed deep,
Heaven broke open with radiant light—
Not loud, not grand... but holy and sweet.
Not in palaces, but in a stable’s still breath,
The Light of the world took His first newborn step.
Wrapped not in gold but in cloth worn thin,
Eternal Light came gently in.
Merry Light—though the world was weary.
Hope was born where hearts were dreary.
Not all was calm. Not all was bright.
But Love lit the sky that sacred night.

[Building tempo and voice]

The angels declared it with thunderous praise,
While shepherds ran in a glorious daze.
The dark didn’t win, and fear took flight,
Because God came down in mercy and might.
And here we are—centuries away,
Still lit by the spark of that holy day.
In a world still broken, shadows near,
We carry the flame: Immanuel's here.

[Pause – quiet and slow]





Merry Light... when peace feels lost.
Holy Night... at a humble cost.
He came not to shine from afar,
But to place His fire inside our hearts.

[Closing – soft but strong]

So we glow with joy that trials can't steal,
Shine with a love no wound can conceal.
We are lights strung in the midnight sky—
Little lanterns of Heaven walking by.
Merry Light... not from us, but from Him.
Holy Night... where the story begins.
So let every sparkle, every flame, every star—
Remind us again who we truly are.
We are light-bearers. We are joy-bringers.
We are the candles lit by the King of kings.
This is our Merry Light. This is our Holy Night.
This is Christmas. And Christ is everything.

Writer Anonymous

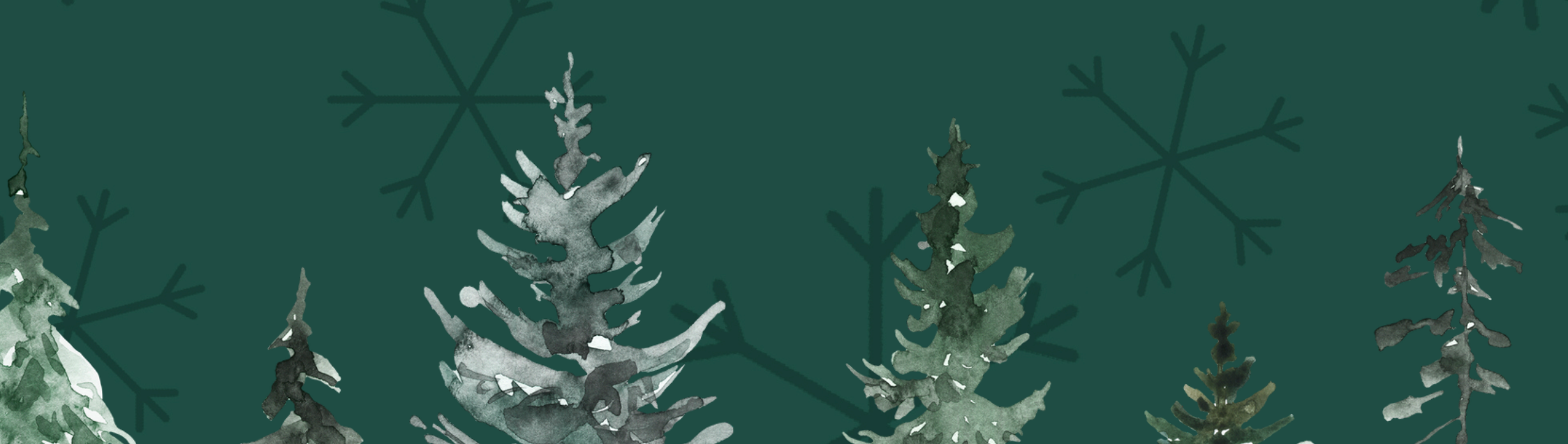
The Word

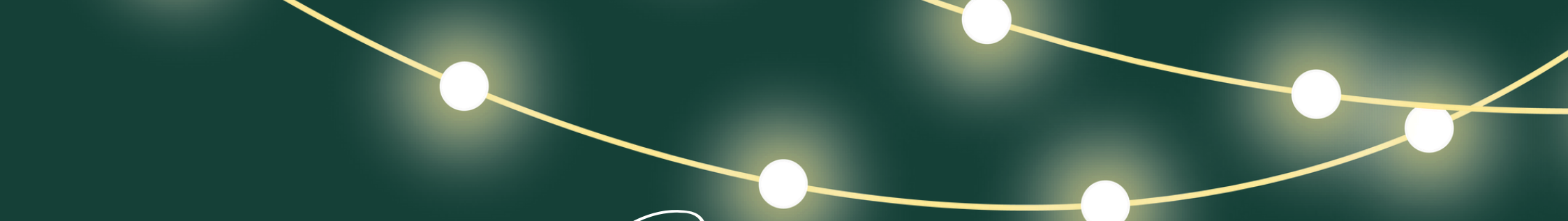
Invite a captivating speaker to deliver a Christmas themed devotion on Jesus the light of the world and how we need to be light.

Devotional: Written by Major Marina Jennings – included below

Christmas Blessing:

May the light of Christ shine brightly in us this season. As women called to reflect His glory, may our words bring kindness, our presence bring peace, and our lives point others to the true Light of the World.





Sample SCHEDULE

Merry & Bright November Night Ladies Night Out

Welcome & Prayer

Icebreaker “This or That”

Christmas Music – Either you can sing as a group or have someone share a vocal.
(Song suggestions: Joy to the World, Long time ago in Bethlehem, Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)

Testimony: Shining God’s Light

Taste Test & Giveaway– Elves to deliver a special festive treat and share a festive giveaway.

Demonstration – Have someone from a local floral shop or someone who is crafty to share a demonstration on how to make a Christmas Centerpiece or Wreath. It could also be someone to share how to make a special Christmas Dessert.

Taste Test & Giveaway – Elves to deliver a special festive treat and share a festive giveaway.

Special Music – Have someone share a vocal

Devotional “Light it up”

Reflection Time

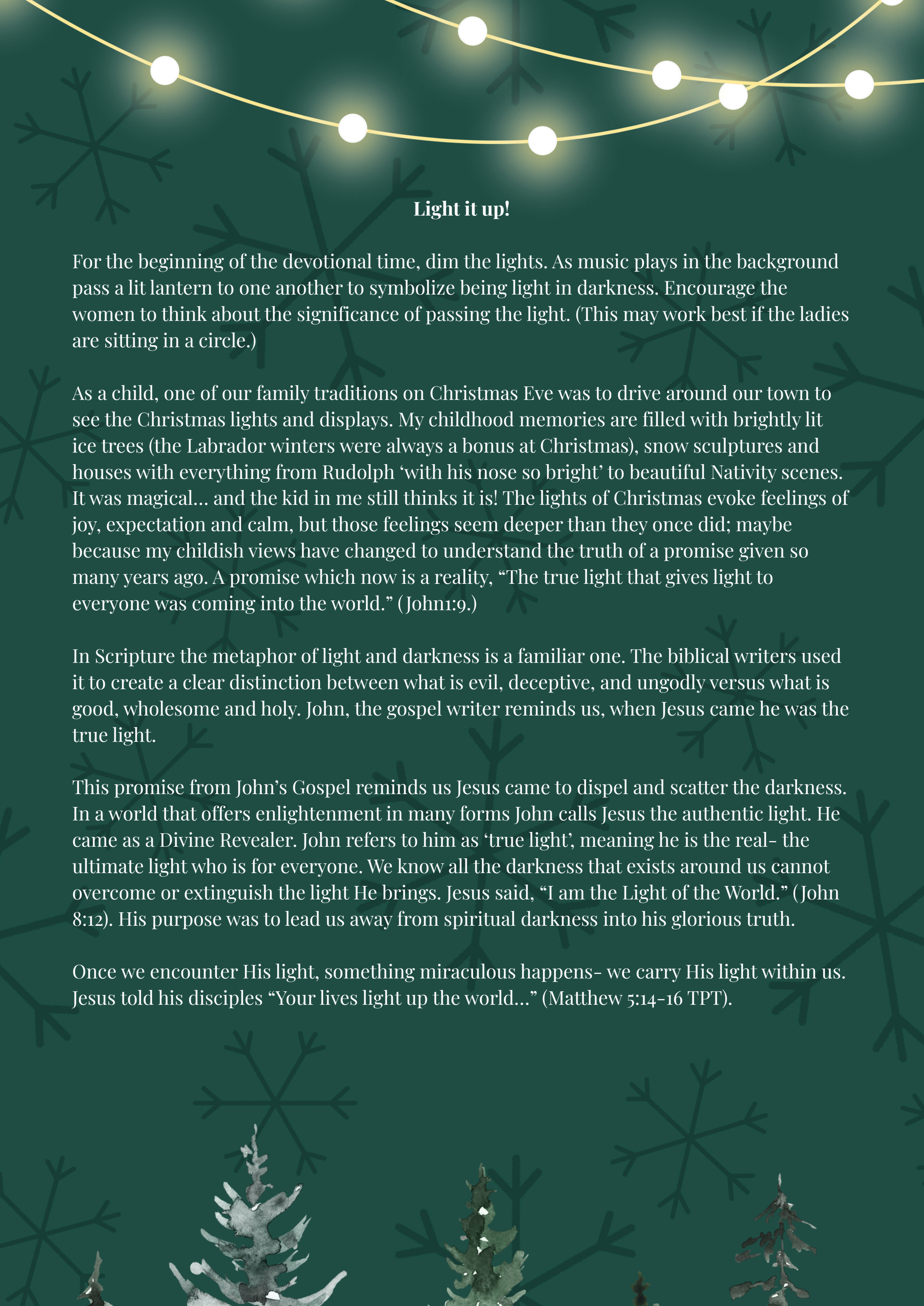
Prayer

Taste Test – This can be a special dessert for to end the night. Ladies can enjoy dessert and a hot beverage and have time to chat around their tables.

Song – Silent Night

Invite ladies to stand in a circle around the room as you conclude the evening with this beautiful Christmas Carol while holding battery operated tea lights.

Christmas Benediction



Light it up!

For the beginning of the devotional time, dim the lights. As music plays in the background pass a lit lantern to one another to symbolize being light in darkness. Encourage the women to think about the significance of passing the light. (This may work best if the ladies are sitting in a circle.)

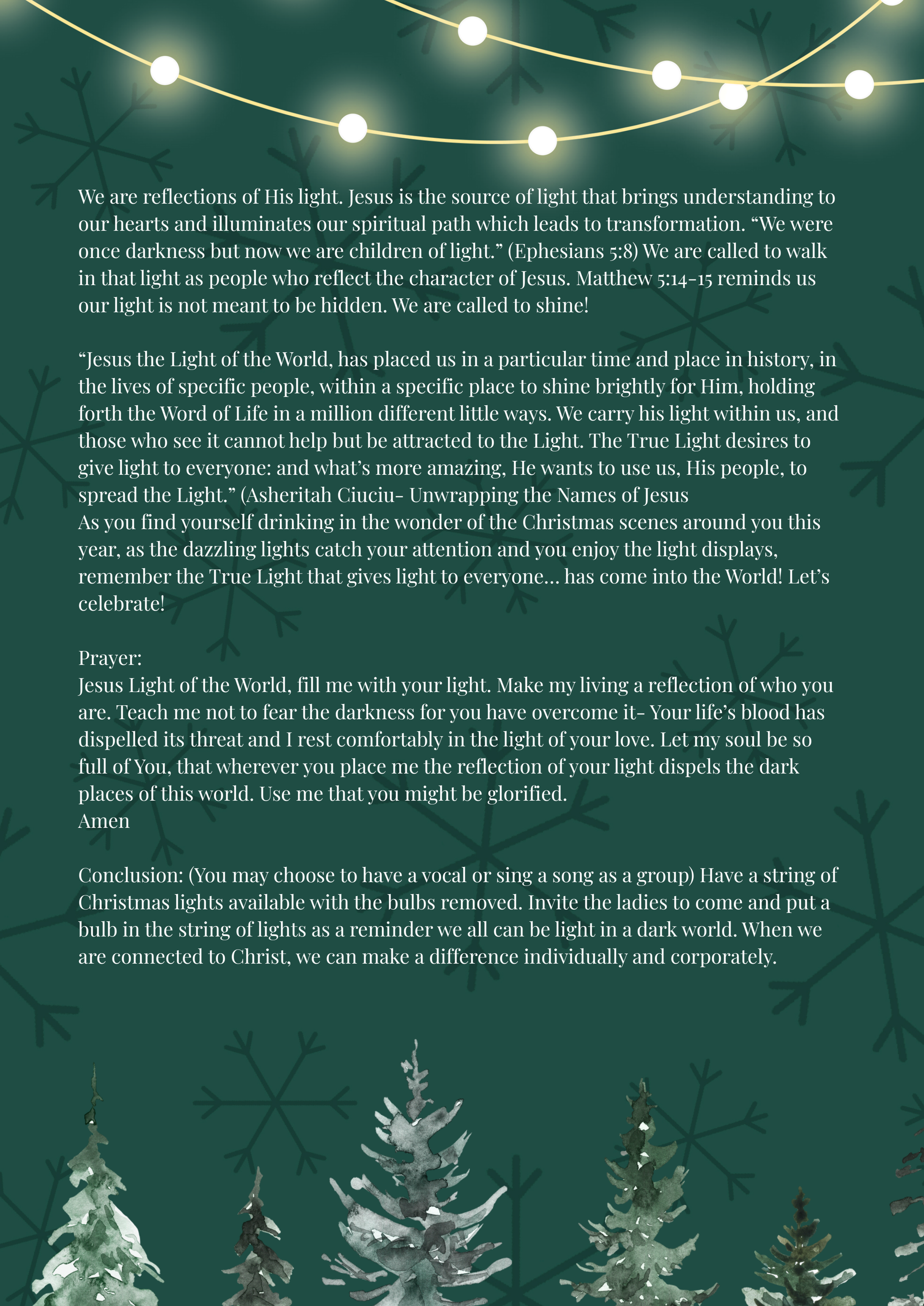
As a child, one of our family traditions on Christmas Eve was to drive around our town to see the Christmas lights and displays. My childhood memories are filled with brightly lit ice trees (the Labrador winters were always a bonus at Christmas), snow sculptures and houses with everything from Rudolph ‘with his nose so bright’ to beautiful Nativity scenes. It was magical... and the kid in me still thinks it is! The lights of Christmas evoke feelings of joy, expectation and calm, but those feelings seem deeper than they once did; maybe because my childish views have changed to understand the truth of a promise given so many years ago. A promise which now is a reality, “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.” (John1:9.)

In Scripture the metaphor of light and darkness is a familiar one. The biblical writers used it to create a clear distinction between what is evil, deceptive, and ungodly versus what is good, wholesome and holy. John, the gospel writer reminds us, when Jesus came he was the true light.

This promise from John’s Gospel reminds us Jesus came to dispel and scatter the darkness. In a world that offers enlightenment in many forms John calls Jesus the authentic light. He came as a Divine Revealer. John refers to him as ‘true light’, meaning he is the real- the ultimate light who is for everyone. We know all the darkness that exists around us cannot overcome or extinguish the light He brings. Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World.” (John 8:12). His purpose was to lead us away from spiritual darkness into his glorious truth.

Once we encounter His light, something miraculous happens- we carry His light within us. Jesus told his disciples “Your lives light up the world...” (Matthew 5:14-16 TPT).





We are reflections of His light. Jesus is the source of light that brings understanding to our hearts and illuminates our spiritual path which leads to transformation. “We were once darkness but now we are children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8) We are called to walk in that light as people who reflect the character of Jesus. Matthew 5:14-15 reminds us our light is not meant to be hidden. We are called to shine!

“Jesus the Light of the World, has placed us in a particular time and place in history, in the lives of specific people, within a specific place to shine brightly for Him, holding forth the Word of Life in a million different little ways. We carry his light within us, and those who see it cannot help but be attracted to the Light. The True Light desires to give light to everyone: and what’s more amazing, He wants to use us, His people, to spread the Light.” (Asheritah Ciuciu- Unwrapping the Names of Jesus)

As you find yourself drinking in the wonder of the Christmas scenes around you this year, as the dazzling lights catch your attention and you enjoy the light displays, remember the True Light that gives light to everyone... has come into the World! Let’s celebrate!

Prayer:

Jesus Light of the World, fill me with your light. Make my living a reflection of who you are. Teach me not to fear the darkness for you have overcome it- Your life’s blood has dispelled its threat and I rest comfortably in the light of your love. Let my soul be so full of You, that wherever you place me the reflection of your light dispels the dark places of this world. Use me that you might be glorified.

Amen

Conclusion: (You may choose to have a vocal or sing a song as a group) Have a string of Christmas lights available with the bulbs removed. Invite the ladies to come and put a bulb in the string of lights as a reminder we all can be light in a dark world. When we are connected to Christ, we can make a difference individually and corporately.

