

Generosity – The Beauty in God's Giving



Week 5

What does BELONGING feel like?

*(Give me some words to describe
it.)*

Research I came across recently that summarises it in 3 words:

**SEEN - HEARD-
ENCOURAGED**

Research Quote:

“We recognize that the first need that people have is to feel like they're part of something bigger than themselves... that idea of belonging... is 50 years of social science research.”





Generosity – The Beauty in God's Giving Luke 1:76-79



THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S GIVING IS SEEN IN A FATHER WHO SENDS LIGHT INTO DARKNESS

Luke 1:76–79

The world is described as:

- *Darkness*
- *The shadow of death*
- *Lost without guidance*

- Into this world, God gives us **“the rising sun from heaven”** (v. 78).
- God responds to darkness not with judgement but with **the gift of His son.**



RESPONSE FROM CONGREGATION:

*I AM SEEN - HEARD -
ENCOURAGED*

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THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S GIVING IS SEEN IN THE PEOPLE HE SENDS

Luke 1:76–79

God gave John the Baptist — A Messenger to Prepare the Way

- Zechariah speaks to his son: “*And you, my child, will be called a prophet…*”
- John is a gift of preparation, a human gift to help others find Jesus.
- God often blesses us through *people*: encouragers, leaders, friends, family, spiritual guides.



GOD GAVE JESUS — THE GIFT OF GOD HIMSELF

- Jesus doesn't bring light—
the Light. He **is**
- He doesn't just speak peace—
our peace. He **is**
- He doesn't simply show the way—
the Way. He **is**



RESPONSE FROM CONGREGATION:

*I AM SEEN - HEARD -
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THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S GIVING IS SEEN IN WHY JESUS IS THE GREATEST GIFT

Luke 1:76–79

HE CAME TO GIVE US KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION (V. 77)

- Not guesswork.
- Not uncertainty.
- Not fear.

A gift of clarity and assurance:

- You can be forgiven
- You can live free
- You can be accepted in Christ



HE CAME TO SHINE LIGHT INTO EVERY HIDDEN CORNER (V. 79A)

Light for:

- The grieving
- The lonely
- Immigrants far from home
- The exhausted
- The depressed
- The spiritually searching
- His light does not expose us to shame

to bring healing.

but

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HE CAME TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE PATH OF PEACE (V. 79B)

- Peace with God
- Peace within ourselves
- Peace across cultures, families, and communities

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In a intercultural setting like TCC,
Christ should become the meeting place of
all people & cultures.

(VISION:GOD CENTRED)

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HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO US?

In a diverse community, God's gift of Jesus tears down barriers.

- The church can become a family where:
 - *Cultures are celebrated,*
 - *Differences are honoured*
 - *Christ is central*
 - *Everyone can belong*

Christmas reminds us we can all be part of a bigger story—God's story—uniting all people under the light of Christ.

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CONCLUSION:

KERRY

How we can respond in
everyday life?

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