

**Witness**

**Monday, 12/8/08 – Read John 1:6-9**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: John’s gospel begins with a cosmic perspective: “In the beginning ...” Interspersed among these cosmic verses is the introduction of an individual human being, John the Baptist. He has a special function: he comes “as a witness,” he comes “to testify to the light.” And his purpose is that all the people will trust the Light. ... This week, as we move deeper into Advent and closer to Christmas, let’s think about John’s role as a witness to the Light -- and about how we too might be those who call attention to the light out so that others can see it. ... What identifies the Light for you? We have to identify the Light before we can point it out.

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**Tuesday, 12/9/08 – Read Matthew 11:1-6**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Today’s reading is intriguing. Even John the Baptist seems to have been somewhat unsure. ... Focus on Jesus’ response. What does he say are the signs of the presence of the Light? ... In the last few days, when have you seen the blind restored to sight? the sick healed? the deaf hear? the dead raised to new life? the poor given reason to hope? Where have you seen these things? ... Is Jesus saying that the presence of these occurrences signals the coming of the Divine Light?

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**Wednesday, 12/10/08 – Read John 9:1-25**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Where do you see God’s Light shining in the world? ... Ponder the simplicity of the blind man’s final response in verse 25: “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” For each of us it finally comes down to our own experience, our own lives: “I was blind, and now I see.” Can you say that? Has God’s Light enabled you to see where before you were just blind? ... Write down your answer.

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**Thursday, 12/11/08 – Read John 8:12-20**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Jesus, who claims to be the Light of the world, points beyond himself to the One he called “Abba,” “Papa,” “the Father.” Even Jesus pointed beyond himself. Even Jesus came as witness. How does your life point beyond yourself to the Light? How are you a witness to the presence of the Light? ... When others listen to your life, what do they hear?

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**Friday, 12/12/08 – Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-10**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Notice two wonderful statements in today’s reading: (1) God and God’s Light has shone in our hearts (verse 6) ... and (2) the life of Jesus is made visible in our bodies (verse 10). Those statements are related. When

God's Light shines in our hearts, then Jesus, the Light of the world, is visible in and through our living. Specifically, in what way is God's Light visible in you? Name just one.

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**Saturday, 12/13/08 – Read John 5:30-38**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Again, Jesus affirms the witness of John the Baptist and his own intimate relationship with the One he called "Abba," "the Father." ... Perhaps it was this intimacy that fanned the Light in Jesus into such a brilliant beacon. The intimacy was so deep that Jesus could say that he sought not to serve his own interests but God's. ... At Christmas we celebrate the coming of God's brilliant Light in Jesus, and (like John the Baptist) we stand as witness to that Light. ... How will you this week stand as witness to the Light?

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**Sunday, 12/14/08 – Read Mark 10:46-52**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Today's reading gives us one more perspective on witnessing to the light. Sometimes it is some deeply felt need that drives us to call out to Jesus, to God. Sometimes our need is so urgent that we don't even care if it makes us look foolish; we don't even care if others see. ... As you approach Christmas this year, is there some need in your life, some urgency that calls out to God? ... The Light is coming into the world. The Light is coming to you. Trust that hope in you that reaches out to the Light.

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*My Faith Journal*, December 7, 2008

Second Sunday of Advent

### ***Witness***

**What do I hear God saying to me today?**

**What actions do I want to take this week?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*