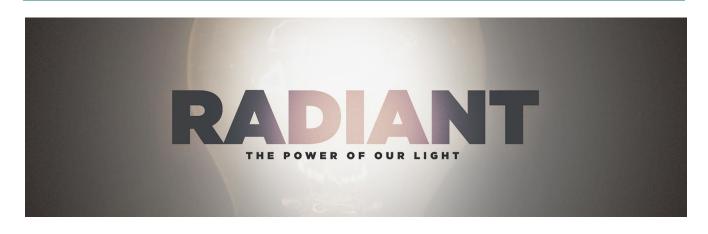
BEYOND SUNDAY



Series Overview

This 3-week series will examine how Jesus transforms individuals, calls them to devote themselves to a community—called the Church. Jesus shows us to what we are to devote ourselves. Radiant is an explanation of the priorities for our next season, so we can live into our PCC mission. Receive the invitation to drive deep roots into PCC, learn how you can make a difference, and realize the transformative power contained within us at PCC.

Message: Radiant Followers Date: September 13, 2020

#1

We are bombarded with alarming headlines continually, on our:

- Phones
- Laptops
- TV screens
- Newspapers

If you could write your own headline, highlighting things that the world might not see, what would that look like? How would that affect your overall disposition?

To do:

Try turning off your phone, screens, or TV for **a couple of hours** 1-2 days this week. The following week share with your group or someone how this went.

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#2

Think of a time you rebelled against your parents, teacher, employer, or the law.

- What were the consequences?
- Did you ever try to negotiate or talk yourself out of your consequences?
- Did that work?

Scripture tells us that we have rebelled spiritually! Against God! Some people might believe they are not "that bad." That they live a "pretty good" life. What does Scripture say about rebellion? See <u>Ephesians 2:1-10</u>, <u>Isaiah 53:6</u>

#3

What are the spiritual consequences of rebellion? See <u>Ephesians 2:3</u>, <u>Romans</u> <u>3:23</u>, <u>Romans 6:23</u>. When we rebel against God, is it negotiable? Isn't God a God of love? Surely He will be lenient. How is God the God of love, and yet have these consequences for mankind?

#4

Think of a time when you were rescued from something—from a bad choice, an addiction, a relationship, or a potentially harmful incident.

- How did you feel towards the person who helped rescue you?
- How did you feel about your new situation?

God is in the business of rescuing as well; He is the ultimate Rescuer and Savior. See <u>Ephesians 2:4-5</u>, <u>Ephesians 2:8</u>. How do you feel towards God, your Spiritual Savior? Compare and contrast your old and new self/situation, before and after being saved spiritually. Share that in your group or reflect on your own.

#5

Sharing a rescue story isn't always easy. It can bring up lots of uncomfortable feelings. Being able to articulate our condition resulting from rebellion and its consequences spiritually is often hard as well. We can come across as either too harsh or too soft. Or we just don't know what to say at all. How comfortable are you talking to others about sin and its consequences? How does <u>Matthew</u> 10:19-20 give you comfort? Discuss the concept of sharing Christ today. How is Christ received in the world today? Is this different from when Paul wrote to the Ephesians?

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#6

If you are in a House Church or small group, divide into pairs and roleplay a situation in which one is questioning his/her state of rebellion and the other is using Scripture to inform. Take turns playing each role. Share in your groups what that was like. If you are alone, practice what you might say to someone.

Remember, Scripture is what penetrates the heart and soul, not our fancy words, so use Scripture. Example: "Let me tell you what Scripture says about that" and then fill in the blank. Sometimes it's hard to talk about Kingdom topics, because we don't really know God's Word. We know *about* His word, but don't truly *know* His Word. If we truly want the Holy Spirit to give us the words to say, we have to write them in our hearts so He can do a work in us. See <u>Deuteronomy 11:18</u>. Memorize <u>Ephesians 2:8</u> this week. Ask God to bring opportunities to share your story—how you have been rescued and about God's amazing love and grace for all.

Prayer:

Lord, we confess our thoughts are not always on YOU, the headline story, but on things of this world. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You, so that we might be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We acknowledge that we strayed from you. We went our own way. We acknowledge that the wages of sin is death. Thank you that, while we were yet sinners, You showed Your great love and mercy to us by dying on the cross. That while we were dead in our sins, You rescued us from what we deserve—eternal separation from YOU. Thank you that whosoever receives You has eternal life. Thank you that You accept us just as we are, and now may we see Your image inside of others, and be bold enough to be Your light in this dark world. Help us to hide Your Word inside our hearts that Your Spirit can use us. We are here, Lord. In Jesus' Almighty Name we pray, Amen.

Other Resources:

Become a PCC Stakeholder: <u>Stakeholder Steps</u> Are you looking for a group? <u>Join One</u>