

GOD'S HEART FOR — WEEK 4

The Porch Light

Pastor Joe Landers, Missions & Outreach Pastor | October 25, 2026

Main Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Connect

ICEBREAKER

Tell us about a time you came home late, worn out, or from a long way away, and someone had left a light on or was waiting up for you. What did that moment feel like?

Message Snapshot

BIG IDEA

We were dead in the dark, and nobody flips that switch for themselves. God moved first, and He keeps the light on for the lost through people who will pray and go.

STICKY BOTTOM LINE

A church that keeps the porch light on because someone kept it on for us.

REMEMBER THIS

The light that stays on and the legs that go.

KEY TRUTHS FROM SUNDAY

- Paul makes us sit in the diagnosis before he lets us breathe. In Ephesians 2:1-3 the word for dead means a corpse, and Pastor Joe said, "You can't coach a corpse." Sick people ask for medicine, but dead people can only be raised, and it takes a miracle.
- Three men, three different starting lines, the same finish line. Wes Jackson and Teddy Chambers grew up in loving, churchgoing homes. Pastor Joe grew up in a broken one. And all 3 ended up far from God. It was never the house or the parents. It is our fallen condition apart from God.
- Then comes "but God." The verb Paul held back for 3 verses arrives in Ephesians 2:4-7, and it is because of His great love, even while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We can't clean ourselves up enough for God. Salvation is by grace through faith, a gift and not a result of works, so no one can boast.
- God keeps the light on, and He sends someone. In Luke 15 the father saw his son a long way off because someone was watching the road. In Ezekiel 34 God says, "Then I will search for my sheep and will seek them out," and in James 5 He uses someone to bring a wanderer home. Pastor Joe's own story was a literal porch light and one made of prayers he never knew about.
- We were raised from death to life to carry the light. Ephesians 2:10 calls us God's workmanship, a poem written on purpose, and Ephesians 2:13-19 says we were brought near through the blood of Christ and made a part of His household. 4 Points Church is not a place for people who have it together. It is a household of the least, the lost, and the lonely that have been brought home to Christ, leaving the light on and going out looking for others who need Him.

Scripture

Read together: Ephesians 2:1-10

Read it aloud together, then read it again slowly. Watch for the words we, you, and with, and notice how long it takes before Paul tells us what God does about it.

Discuss

OBSERVE

- 1 In verses 1-3, how does Paul describe our life before God stepped in? Whom does he include when he says we all once lived this way?
- 2 Read verses 4-7. What two words turn the whole passage around, what does God do, and what does Paul say moves Him to do it? What little word keeps showing up after made alive, raised up, and seated?
- 3 In verses 8-10, what is called a gift, what is ruled out, and what does Paul say we were created for?

UNDERSTAND

- 4 Pastor Joe said dead people can still have a pulse and a calendar, and that dead people can look fine at church and still be dead. Why can it be so easy to look alive while still being far from God?
- 5 Wes and Teddy grew up in loving churchgoing homes, and Pastor Joe grew up in a broken one, yet they landed in the same place. What does that say about the stories we tell ourselves about who is too far gone, and who is fine?
- 6 Pastor Joe said the porch light is not enough for someone who feels too far gone, because somebody has to put on shoes. Why do you think God uses people to bring His people home, when He could do it all Himself?

APPLY

- 7 Pastor Joe asked, "Whose light has been on for you?" Who prayed for you, invited you, or kept a door open before you were ready? Have you ever told them what it meant?
- 8 Pastor Joe asked, "Who is the one a long way off from you? Who have you written off?" Who comes to mind, and what makes it easier to leave the light off for that person than to put on shoes?

Live It Out

Pastor Joe asked, "Who is your someone?" This week, write down the name of one person who feels a long way off from you. Pray for them by name every day, and before Sunday take one step toward them: a text, an invitation, a visit, or a phone call. Come back next week ready to share what happened.

Prayer

- Thank God for the people who kept a light on for us, and for "but God," that He moved first and loved us when we were dead, not after we cleaned up.
- Confess the places we have tried to clean up first, held on to old idols, or settled for a lukewarm faith.
- Pray by name for the person who is a long way off, and ask God to show us the one step to take toward them this week.
- Pray for 4 Points Church to be a household where the least, the lost, and the lonely find the porch light on, and for everyone who responded to the gospel this morning.

Father, thank You that we never had to find the switch, because You walked into the dark and turned on the light. Thank You for every person who prayed for us and left a light on when we could not see it. Forgive us for the times we have waited for people to clean up before we went looking for them. Give us eyes for the one who is a long way off and the courage to put on shoes. Make us a church that keeps the porch light on and goes out looking. In Jesus' name, amen.

HOST TIP Pastor Joe was open about addiction, broken homes, and years of running from God, and someone in your group may be living that now or loving someone who is. Let people answer the last Apply question without naming names aloud. If someone opens up, thank them, resist the urge to fix it, and offer to pray right then. If it needs more than a group can give, follow up privately and connect them with a pastor or staff member.