

“I am the Light of the World”

Resources for Preparation beforehand:

- Who is Jesus/Who am I sheet
- A candle
- A means of playing the worship song and/or copies of words for everyone

Discussion Starter:

What kind of light appeals to you and why? (desk light, torch, bonfire, spotlight, sunset etc)

God Reveals Himself:

Light is so important to us all. In Genesis 1: 1-5 in the creation story the first part of creation is the light. On the following days we are told of lots of different things appeared. Why was day 1 only about the creation of light?

Experiential exploration of the flame:

Light the candle and place it where everyone can see it, encourage people to look closely at the flame and appreciate it. This is a reflective exercise.

Reading: John 8 v 12-20

Questions:

1. If you connected with one of the services what did you take away?
2. Why do you think the Pharisees were particularly upset when Jesus claimed to be the Light of the World? (Is 42 v 6, Is 60 v 1-3)
3. What aspect of light do you think John is describing?
4. In what way have you seen Jesus as a light in a dark place recently?

Imagine a torchlight walk (Reflective):

You are out in the late evening and there is darkness all around you. You have a torch which you switch on as you begin to walk. Consider what you can see and what is left unseen.

5. Where is there darkness in your community?
6. How might Jesus shine in your community?

Response & Worship:

Song suggestion: *“Light of the World”* (Chris Tomlin version of Tim Hughes lyrics)

Look at the candle again can you make out different things? (may be turn off the electric lights if they are on): for reflection and prayer

Take Away:

- Encourage everyone to record something on their “Who is Jesus/Who am I” sheet and bring it to add to each week.
- For during the week:
 - Try having a candle burning when you have your quiet time
 - Be aware of the different types of light you experience throughout the week
 - Read Ps 119 v 105 and reflect on it
 - Why not see whether your elderly neighbours have torches that work.