

Advent: An Inextinguishable Light W/C 13th Dec 2020

Light is a significant theme/symbol during Christmas and Advent. Spoken of by prophets long ago, glimpsed by shepherds out in the field by night, attracting Wise Men from the East, pointed to by John the Baptist, the light was made flesh in Christ – the one who continues to shine in the darkness, bringing light both to the world and to our path.

In Christ, we believe, a new day has dawned, but it has still only just begun, the sun has not yet fully risen. As Advent and Christmas remind us, Christian commitment involves waiting, trusting, hoping and expecting. God invites us to a leap of faith: to trust that one day, in the fulness of time, the sunlight of Christ will shine on all. How are we called to live in the meantime?



Ice Breaker: Light Anagrams (see over)



UP: Spend some time in worship: Listen to the song, 'Light of the World'. Alternatively, plan another act of worship that is appropriate to your group.

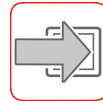


UP: Looking at God's word together:
Read: John 1:1-5; Revelation 21:2;23

Discussion Questions

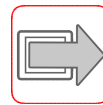
1. What aspects of life do you find most difficult to square with a God of love? Have there been personal experiences or world events that have seriously tested your faith?
2. In what ways can you see God at work in our world, even in the darkest places and moments?
3. What have you found most helpful in coming to terms with the times of darkness that afflict you or others? Is it possible to come up with answers in terms of faith? Should we try?
4. Have you found some explanations so simplistic that they do more harm than

good? What were they? What did you feel was wrong with them?



IN: Spend some time in prayer.
▪ Thank God for the Carol services on 13th.

- Pray for the remaining Christmas services.
- Pray for the Foodbank, that people who need help will receive it/come forward.
- Pray for those still affected by Covid at this time, possibly alone in hospital.
- Pray for key workers, as they seek to help those suffering at this time.
- Pray for any personal needs within your own group.



OUT: How would you answer the question, 'if there is a God, why is there so much suffering in the world?'

Light Anagrams (*with answers!*)

- 1) **MAIL NUT IN OIL**
ILLUMINATION
- 2) **O CRUEL FENCES**
FLUORESCENCE
- 3) **I CAN READ**
RADIANCE
- 4) **HERBS STING**
BRIGHTNESS
- 5) **SHE IS NUN**
SUNSHINE
- 6) **LENT US MINCE**
LUMINESCENT
- 7) **BIN ALL RICE**
BRILLIANCE
- 8) **A DRY BEAK**
DAYBREAK
- 9) **ENDS IN ACCENT**
INCANDESCENT
- 10) **TEST THE GIRL**
STREETLIGHT

This series is based on the study material 'Lighten our path' by Nick Fawcett.