

Advent: A Guiding Light W/C 29th Nov 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.

Light is essential simply to see what we are doing, which leads us to an exploration of the ways in which God offers light to our path in the journey of life and faith.



Ice Breaker: Light Quiz (see over)



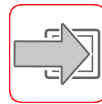
UP: Spend some time in worship: Read Matt 2:1-2;11, then listen to the carol, 'We Three Kings' or 'As with Gladness, Men of Old'. Alternatively, plan another act of worship that is appropriate to your group.



UP: Looking at God's word together:
Read: Isaiah 60:19; John 8:12

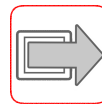
Discussion Questions

1. How is the prophecy in Isaiah fulfilled through Jesus today?
2. In what ways in the past have you been most conscious of God leading you?
3. Faced with important decisions or questions of faith, where are you most likely to turn for guidance?
4. Do you think God directs our actions or expects us to get on with the business of daily life and discipleship by ourselves?
5. Can we lay too much emphasis on guidance, confusing it with following our own wishes? Do we make the opposite mistake of failing to look for guidance, living with virtually no reference to God at all?
6. How can we distinguish between God's guidance and our own ideas? Are there any criteria we can use?



IN: Spend some time in prayer.

- Pray for the Christmas services, in their preparation and positive responses as invitations go out.
- Pray for our missionary links, particularly Wit & Helen.
- Pray for those who struggle at Christmas time, especially financially and emotionally.
- Pray for the leadership team as they seek wisdom in leading the church in the coming year.
- Pray that we all might grow to know Jesus more and gain a passion to make Him known to others.
- Pray for any personal needs within your own group.



OUT: What advice would you give to someone who is faced with making a major decision?

Light Quiz (with answers!)

- 1) Who invented the first electric light bulbs, and when?
UK, 1878: Joseph Swan, USA, 1879: Thomas Edison
- 2) What is the technical name for the northern lights?
Aurora borealis
- 3) Can you name our nearest star?
Proxima centauri
- 4) Which comet can be seen on earth every 76 years and which every 1000?
Halley's comet & Comet Hale-Bopp
- 5) What, roughly, is the speed of light in kilometres?
3000 kilometres per second (approx.)
- 6) Which year saw the most recent solar eclipse?
1999
- 7) Which early lighthouse is located in Alexandria?
Pharos
- 8) Who invented 'cat's eyes', and when?
Mr Percy Shaw, 1933
- 9) Which vital road safety device was patented by Garrett Augustus Morgan in 1923?
The traffic light
- 10) Which optical tool was first built by Maiman in 1960?
The first fully functioning laser