

TITLE AND NUMBER: 8. The light that shines in the darkness

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. (v 1 and 2)

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (v5)



LOOKING FURTHER: John 8:12

What does this Bible passage tell us?

John is telling us that Jesus is the light of the world. He doesn't write Jesus' name, but we can tell by how John talks about Him. He says that 'the world did not recognise Him'. We know that people - even his disciples - didn't realise who He was, at first. But John tells us that Jesus shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood Him.

Lots of people don't understand about Jesus. But nearly all of us understand about darkness. Perhaps we had a scary experience as a child in the dark.

Then there are other sorts of darkness, aren't there? Like when we feel really low, when we feel helpless or when it's really hard to be hopeful. That's a darkness as well. And this darkness is even worse if we can't tell anyone because we can feel so alone.

There's a little saying that 'all the darkness in the world cannot put out even one candle'. That's like the verse at the top (v5). Jesus is a light which all our darkness cannot overcome.

Sometimes He shines for us by letting us know He's right there with us in our lonely, sad place. He's listening to us. He understands us. Sometimes He asks someone else to shine for Him.

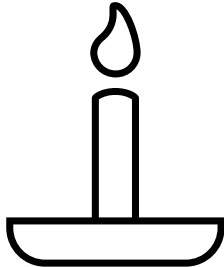
They might write to us or notice how we are feeling. They might listen to us. They might just smile when we really need it. They might crack a joke which cheers us up. When that happens, Jesus is shining through them, for us.

Christmas lights only shine for a couple of months. Jesus keeps shining 24/7- always - for all of us.

Reflections:

- What sort of light do you like seeing...the sun? A light in the ceiling? Can you say why you like that light?
- What sort of people 'light up your life'? How do they do it?
- Can you say 'thank you' for those people?
- Why do you think John calls Jesus 'the light of the world'?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

