

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 171. Light in the darkness

**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



**LOOKING FURTHER:** Genesis 1:3-5; Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:9; Matthew 2:2; John 1:1-9; Acts 9:3b

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

In verse 5 of this passage, Paul is telling the Christians in Corinth that he does not preach about himself but about Jesus Christ as Lord. And that it is because of his love for Jesus that he is serving them. Our love for Jesus should inspire us to serve others, too. It is not a duty; it is a privilege.

In verse 6, Paul uses the word 'light' three times in one sentence, which emphasises its importance. Light is mentioned time and time again in the Bible:

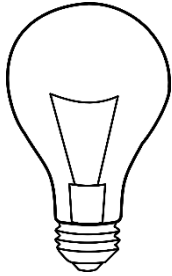
- Right at the beginning, in Genesis 1:3-5, we read that 'God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good.'
- Isaiah prophesied the coming of Jesus as Light (Isaiah 9:2).
- Jesus' birth was announced to the shepherds by an angel and the glory of God shone around them (Luke 2:9).
- The wise ones followed a star to find the baby Jesus and worship Him (Matthew 2:2).
- Jesus is referred to as the Light of the World in John's version of the coming of Jesus into the world as man (John 1:9).
- Paul himself encountered Jesus when 'a light from heaven flashed around him' (Acts 9:3b); perhaps he was thinking of this when he wrote to the Corinthians.

When people talk about suddenly receiving a flash of inspiration, they often refer to it as a 'light bulb' moment. Paul is saying that God, who created light out of the darkness at the beginning of time, makes His light, Jesus, shine into our hearts so that we might understand the awesomeness of God through Jesus – a real 'light bulb' moment.

### Reflections:

- Faith should inspire action. Think how you could serve someone for Jesus' sake. Remember that prayer is action. Whatever else you do, you can pray in Jesus' Name.
- Read again the Bible passages referred to above where 'light' is mentioned. See if you can find any others, particularly in the New Testament.
- If you are feeling low, imagine Jesus as a small point of light coming into your darkness and gradually growing bigger and nearer until His light fills your heart with God's love.

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.

