

## I am the Light of the World

1. Review. What did we learn about last week at CU?  
Do you remember that we said John chose 7 things that Jesus said about himself and 7 signs to help us to understand who Jesus is and how we should respond to him?  
This week we are thinking about Jesus saying I am the Light of the World: going to be thinking about the way light changes darkness and how Jesus overcomes the darkness.

2. Warm up: What do we associate with light and darkness? Write the two words on a piece of paper and jot down all of the other words that come to mind associated with Light or Darkness.

Darkness is normally associated with things that are scary or confusing; crime; night; monsters; not understanding things

Light is about being able to see clearly; joyfulness; but light also casts a shadow. The candle breaks the darkness, but it also defines it.

Has there been a time when you really needed light?

In World War II story planes flying into battle from aircraft carriers didn't have all the high-tech equipment they have today. They just had to rely on the pilot being able to see. During a very famous battle in the Pacific Ocean, the pilots were trying to get back by sunset. The aircraft carrier had all its lights turned off because otherwise it might be combed by the Germans. This made it very hard for the pilots and some of them had to ditch into the ocean. After several planes were lost this way, the Admiral decided to turn on the lights to guide the last planes home. This placed the ships in danger but saved the lives of the pilots and helped them to land safely. Can you imagine the relief of the pilots who saw the light coming out of the darkness of the sea – what a beautiful sight it must have been!

3. Today's verse tells us about an even more important moment of light coming into the darkness of the world. It was the end of a Jewish festival of light. For a week they had massive lights burning that lit up the city all evening, but they had just been turned out. Jesus then declared:

Jesus said, 'I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life.' (John 8:12)

What do you think Jesus meant when he described himself as the light?  
Take their answers.

4. Let's look at some Bible verses to help us. (Grid will not have the third column filled in for students) Divide into pairs, to look at a verse each. What does your verse say and what does it tell us about God/light? Feed back to the group.

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### Quick survey of light! Student Sheet 1

What do we learn about light in these verses? Who or what is it or brings it? What happens?		
Psalm 18:28	You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.	
Psalm 19:8	The commands of the Lord are radiant (shining brightly) giving light to the eyes.	
Psalm 27:1	The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?	
Psalm 36: 9	For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.	
John 1: 1-5	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome <sup>[a]</sup> it.	
John 1 6-9	<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.  <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.	
John 3: 19-21	. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.	
Rev. 21: 22-25	<sup>22</sup> I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.	

## I am the Light of the World

Quick survey of light!

What do we learn about light in these verses? Who or what is it or brings it? What happens?		
Psalm 18:28	You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.	God is the light and that provides the strength and light we need for our lives.
Psalm 19:8	The commands of the Lord are radiant (shining brightly) giving light to the eyes.	God's word is light. It provides guidance and direction, but also joy.
Psalm 27:1	The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?	Security, light, hope, protection in a dark and dangerous world.
Psalm 36: 9	For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.	Light is about joy and life given by God.
John 1: 1-5	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome <sup>[a]</sup> it.	Jesus is the Light. Strong association with life-giving/creation.  Light more powerful than darkness.  For everyone.
John 1: 6-9	<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.  <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.	Jesus is the Light.  John testifies so that 'all' might believe. Light is for everyone.
John 3: 19-21	. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.	People reject the light because they prefer to live in sin.
Rev. 21: 22-25	22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.	Heaven is perfectly light but no darkness anymore.

Quick survey of light!

What do we learn about light in these verses? Who or what is it or brings it? What happens?

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5. So, how do these verses help us to understand what Jesus meant by saying He is the light for the world?

Who is the source of light?

*God – so if Jesus is The Light with capital letters then he is saying he is God! Jesus is God and he is the source of all light and goodness in the world.*

What does light do?

*Life-giving: the light gives life and saves us from death and danger.*

*Truth-giving: light guides us in a dark world. God's Word gives us direction and helps us to understand what the world is all about. By coming into the light, we reject sin.*

If light is so good, why do people not come to the light?

*Light shows up our sin. If we come to the light we have to let go of our sin and walk in the light. Some people prefer darkness to light.*

6. When Jesus taught the people he was the Bread of Life, what sign did he give them?  
John puts Jesus's statement that he is the Light next to another story, where Jesus will demonstrate how he brings light.

Going to listen to the story of what happens next in John. John 8 1-11

What different kinds of light and darkness are there in this story?

Who is in light and who is in dark?

How do they move between light and dark or vice versa?

How does that help us to understand what kind of light Jesus brings and how we can have it?

- Jesus is showing that he is God because only God gives light. In fact there were promises in the OT that when Messiah came the blind would see.
- Jesus is showing that the light he brings is life-giving and good. It is spiritual life.
- Jesus is showing that the reason some people don't want to come into the light is because they don't want to accept the truth.

7. Summing up

What did we learn about what Jesus said about himself?

How did Jesus show he could bring light?

Sometimes we have good times in life and sometimes we have hard times. God offers to be our light and guide. Jesus has overcome the darkness of sin and death by shining light on it. Like the blind man in today's story, we can put our faith and trust in him. Or we can reject him and stay in the dark like the Pharisees.

8. Prayer

Thank God that He hasn't left us in the dark, but instead has given Jesus as the only one who can be our guide in life, and who can save us from sin and death. In what can be a very dark world, He is our light and our guide.

## I am the Light of the World

"My Lighthouse" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAlJKv7ptU>

In my wrestling and in my doubts  
In my failures You won't walk out  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go  
In the questions, Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse  
Shining in the darkness  
I will follow You  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse  
I will trust the promise  
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings  
With each morning I'll rise and sing  
My God's love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

(You are my light)

My lighthouse, my lighthouse  
Shining in the darkness  
I will follow You  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse  
I will trust the promise  
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore

Fire before us. You're the brightest  
You will lead us through the storms

Fire before us. You're the brightest  
You will lead us through the storms

Fire before us. You're the brightest  
You will lead us through the storms

Fire before us. You're the brightest  
You will lead us through the storms

My lighthouse, my lighthouse  
Shining in the darkness  
I will follow You  
My lighthouse, my lighthouse  
I will trust the promise  
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)  
Safe to shore

*by Rend Collective*