

Week 11 – Light of the World

Theme : Jesus is the Light of the World.

Games :

Storyword: Divide the children into teams and tell them that you are going to play a word-guessing game (a bit like Pictionary); their team must guess the words by drawing them, but not saying anything. Ask a volunteer from each team to come forward and whisper to them the first word, which they must draw for their group. (*If they need help then give them the clues for drawing in brackets.*) They can draw as many clues as they want, but they must not write any words or speak. (Make sure there is plenty of spare paper!) Tell the rest of the group that they can guess out loud but not for the other teams to overhear their answers! When the group has guessed the word, they must send someone else up to collect the second word, and so on. The first team to guess all the words wins.

Light-Dark: Label one end of your room 'Dark' and the other 'Light'. Ask the children to stand in the centre of the room. Read out scenarios such as: 'You push your friend in the dinner queue because he accidentally pushed you' or 'You help Mum tidy up even when she hasn't asked you to'. Challenge the children to decide whether this is behaving like 'light' or 'dark', and to move to that end of the room.

Light & Dark Obstacle Race: Divide into teams and set up an obstacle course for each team. Blindfold the first members of each team. On "Go" they have to negotiate the course. The next members do the course without the blindfold. Alternate with/without blindfold.

Introduction : Ask children to suggest different light sources and what they might illuminate. There are different lights in the Christmas story. Can they name some of them? (e.g. star / angels / lanterns) Explain that in today's Kingsquad, we will learn about the Light of the World.

Story : Tell the story of the shepherds and Jesus' birth. Based on Luke 2:8-20. Either act out or use PowerPlay in resources.

Application : Light sources light up things in the dark. Jesus is the Light of the World. He shines a light on our lives and helps us when we are in dark times.

Memory verse : *"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*

Write each word in a candle on different coloured card, cut out and spread out round the room. Get children to search for one particular colour. The first team to find their complete memory verse and put it in the right order is the winner.

Prayer: Have a picture of a candle or an actual candle (probably not lit for safety). Think about things in your life that you want Jesus to help you with.

Song : *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

www.grahamkendrick.co.uk/songs/lyrics/shine.php

Resources : *Story, storyword clues (see below), candle outlines, funsheet.*

Storyword

Sheep (cloud with legs)

Bethlehem (townscape as appears on Christmas cards)

Cold (runny nose, person shivering)

Night (lots of black, moon)

Diamond (ring with large stone on)

Shepherd (man with stripy coat and headdress, with a sheep)

Angel Singing (open mouth with notes coming out)

Baby

Socks

Stable

Good news (newspaper and smile)

Tell the story

Encourage the children to respond to the words in bold with the following words and actions as you tell the story from the script below:

Shepherds: hold nose, 'Yuck!'

Angel or angels: astonished expression, 'Praise God!'

Sheep: fluff hair, 'Baa!'

Good news: shout 'Hooray!'

One night outside the town of Bethlehem there were some **shepherds** looking after their **sheep**. This wasn't unusual though, as these **shepherds** didn't go into the town much or have other friends. And people certainly didn't come to visit them. As they spent all day in the fields looking after the **sheep**, they didn't smell too good, and people thought they were stupid, as they didn't go to school.

What happened next was unusual though! Suddenly, out of the blue, right in front of them, was an **angel**.

'Ooooooooooh!' said the **shepherds**. 'Baa!' said the **sheep**.

'Don't be frightened!' said the **angel**. 'I'm here with **good news** for you, **good news** which will make everyone very happy. I've come to tell you that a Saviour has been born for you. He's the Promised One. You'll know who he is because you'll find him lying in a manger.'

A Saviour for them! The **shepherds** thought this was very **good news**! And with that the whole sky was full of **angels**. They sang, 'Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.' Then all was quiet again, and all that was left in the fields were the **shepherds** and the **sheep**.

'Let's go and see if we can find this Saviour,' said the **shepherds** to each other, and they hurried off. They found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in an animal's feeding box.

Mary and Joseph didn't expect to be visited by **shepherds**! How would **shepherds** have found out the **good news** about their baby? They were even more amazed to hear that the **shepherds** were the first to hear the **good news** from the **angels**. Of course, Mary and Joseph weren't the only ones who were surprised! So were the **shepherds**. As they went back to their **sheep**, they praised God for the good news of Jesus' birth.

Week 11 Memory Verse

