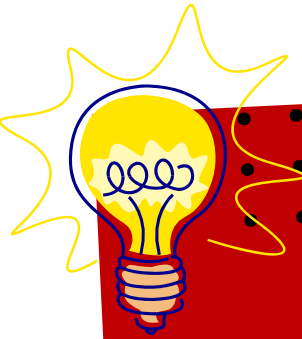


the Light of the World

Lesson 4: The Light of the World



The Light of the World

Luke 2:1-7

Advent Candle
Bethlehem

Scriptures: John 1:1-18, Matthew 4:16, John 8:12, John 9:5, John 12:46

Memory Verse: Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the Light of the world. Those who follow Me will never walk in darkness. They will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 (NirV)



Have you ever watched the sunrise? Is it dark one moment and then immediately light? No, there are signs that the sun is rising before it actually breaks over the horizon. That is how it was with Jesus' birth. The Light was coming into the world and there were signs of its coming. What were some of those signs? (the birth of John the Baptist who came to tell about the Light, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary, and an angel appearing to Joseph in a dream) Signs just seem to build suspense, don't they, until that moment that you've been waiting for? Let's see what these signs led to!

During the time of Elizabeth's and Mary's pregnancies the Roman Empire was ruling much of the known world. The ruler of the Roman Empire was Caesar Augustus and he decided to make a law. He wanted to count all of the people in his empire! The law he made required that everyone go to the town of their ancestors to be counted.

Joseph's ancestors weren't from Nazareth. Joseph's ancestor, King David, had called Bethlehem his town. "So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth, in Galilee, to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was." (Luke 2:4 NirV) Mary went with Joseph. Mary was close to her time to give birth.

If Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to be counted, then so did everyone else whose ancestors were from Bethlehem. When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they couldn't find a place to stay - there was no room. They had to find some kind of shelter, though, because Mary was about to give birth. The shelter they found was among the animals.

Then, Mary "gave birth to her Son, her Firstborn," - Jesus. (Luke 2:7 AMP) Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth. Then, because they sheltered with animals and not in an inn, Mary placed Jesus in a manger, a simple feeding trough for the animals that sheltered there.

The Bible tells us that Jesus' birth wasn't His beginning, neither was His conception. Jesus was in the beginning with God, because Jesus is God. The name Immanuel means "God with us," God in a body. Jesus' birth is described this way, "The Word [Jesus] became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." (John 1:14 MSG)

Jesus' birth was God coming down to man in a way we could see and understand. Jesus didn't remain a baby in a manger. He walked among us and as He did, we saw what God is like. When Jesus began teaching, He said of Himself, "I am the Light of the world. Those who follow Me will never walk in darkness. They will have the light that leads to life." (John 8:12 NIV) Jesus came to light our way to God; He is the only way to God.

Review

1. Who was the ruler of the Roman Empire? (Caesar Augustus)
2. What did he do? (Made a law. He wanted to count everyone in the whole empire.)
3. What did that mean for Joseph and Mary? (Joseph had to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem to be counted. Mary went with him.)
4. What happened once they arrived in Bethlehem? (They could not find a place to stay, so they slept with the animals.)

Application

Jesus said of Himself, "I am the Light of the world. Those who follow Me will never walk in darkness. They will have the light that leads to life." (John 8:12 NIV)

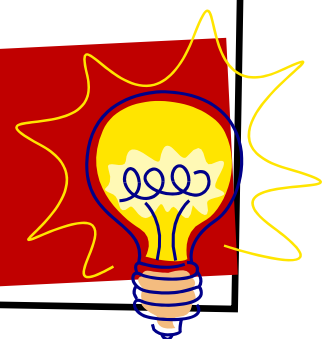
What does it mean to "walk in darkness?" Darkness represents sin, so walking in darkness represents a life of sin.

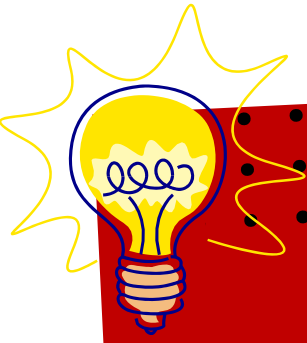
When you have spent your life walking in darkness, light is painful; it reveals things you couldn't see before. That same light, though, can also be very refreshing.

Jesus came to light our way to God; He is the only way to God. Are you willing to come to the Light? Are you ready to let Him expose the things in your life that need to be removed? It may be painful at first, but it will also be very refreshing!

Come to Him today.

Next Week
Is the Light in You?
Luke 2:8-20





Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Make candles from toilet paper rolls. Cut out a flame from construction paper. Mount the candles on a small paper plate or a circle cut from construction paper as well. Print the memory verse around the base.

Sing “Let There Be Light” (by Stephen Curtis Chapman), “Here I Am to Worship,” “The Light of the World is Jesus,” “The Birthday of a King,” “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” “Joy to the World,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” “Arise, Your Light Has Come,” “Silent Night, Holy Night,” “Joy to the World,” “Away, in a Manger,” and “O Come Let Us Adore Him.”

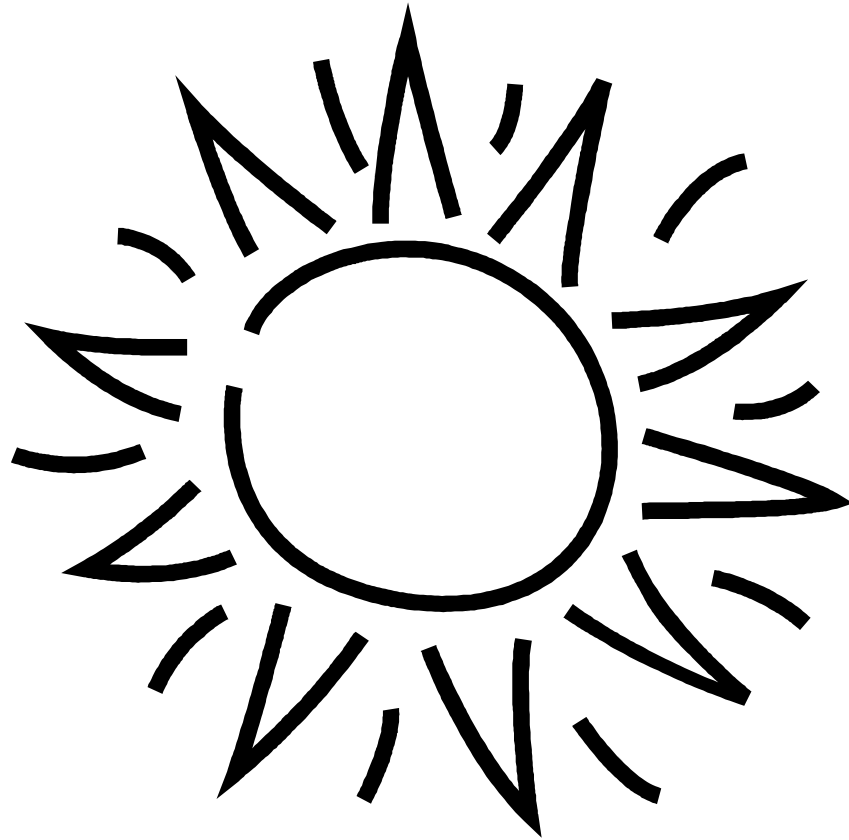
Start with a dark room. Give each a candle and light them one at a time. Talk about God coming to earth in the body of Jesus.

Play Christmas Bingo. Print cards with words or pictures from our previous lesson.

Make spaghetti with butter to snack on. Talk about how it looks like hay.

Make an edible manger. Use chow mein noodles or pretzel sticks. Coat them with melted butterscotch or peanut butter chips.

This week, turn on the lights of your Christmas Tree. Talk about Jesus being the Light of the World.



Jesus spoke to the people again.
He said, “I am the Light of the world.

Those who follow Me
will never walk in darkness.

They will have the light
that leads to life.”

John 8:12

Light Lessons

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

“Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, ‘I am the Light of the world. Those who follow Me will never walk in darkness. They will have the light that leads to life.’” (John 8:12 NIV) How many new words can you form from the name “Light of the World?”



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Word Search

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a i r k h t p a e m o h c r k
b e l i h t t v g h i l a g a
r m a g b e e o a p t h e l t
g h a t n r o b s i s u s e j
a m a n g e r a a c n z a d i
b z e e g o b e t z w r r l o
r e l h n w o t e m o h a j i
i d i a e l p o e p t n u o c
a c l r k l a d a a s t g s r
i o e e s b h t g a d r u e l
w u e u e a z t y p i y s p e
n n s j a g z l e r v h t h w
z e a k r o n j e b a o u t k
j r e t w n e s s n d m s a d

Caesar Augustus

count people

hometown

Bethlehem

David's town

Joseph

Mary

Jesus is born

manger

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g h a t n r o b s i s u s e j
a m a n g e r a a c n z a d i
b z e e g o b e t z w r r l o
r e l h n w o t e m o h a j i
i d i a e l p o e p t n u o c
a c l r k l a d a a s t g s r
i o e e s b h t g a d r u e l
w u e u e a z t y p i y s p e
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h p u g o d w i t h u s
n j o s e p h h e l e r
p w a y e r h l e s u d
m d l l w c a e s a r s
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