WEEK 6: JESUS IS …. THE LIGHT

AIM: To show the children that living without Jesus is like living in darkness. Jesus ‘turns on the light’ in our life so that we are able to ‘see’ and understand God. Also linked with this concept is the illustration of darkness and evil, light and goodness. The children also need to know that when Jesus lives in them, they become lights also.

OPENING IDEA: BUGS WITH FLASHLIGHTS

Some countries have beetles called ‘fireflies’ or ‘glow worms’. These insects are able to use substances in their bodies to produce light. If you put some in a glass jar, they would produce enough light to read by. The firefly can control its light. A substance which can burn fills their tail section. When air gets to this section, it starts a small fire. The firefly can hold the substance back or push it forward. That is why they are sometimes hard to catch. They simply turn off their lights. The air is breathed in so the firefly can stop the signal whenever it wants to.

Fireflies are used for beauty and light. In other countries some women wear them on their dresses or jewelry. Men who have had to travel in the dark often make lanterns from them or put them on their boots to light their paths. The fireflies will become excited and light up more often.

In some ways, you are like a firefly. Jesus Christ told us to let our light shine before men. When people see our good behaviour and the kind things we do, we are like a light shining in darkness. When they see this light they can then see the God we serve. Like fireflies, we control our light. We can make it shine as much as we want to.

Ask children for ways in which they can let their light shine. Write them on the board. Perhaps you could spend some time praying for God to help us do good works so that others will praise God.

MEMORY VERSE: John 8:12

‘Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. So if you follow me, you won’t stumble through the darkness, for living light will flood your path”.’

To accentuate this verse, blindfold a child, turn them around several times, then ask them to find their way to the door. Make sure no dangerous objects are in the way.

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION: The verse can be written on different light/candle/lantern shapes.
STORY: LIVING IN THE LIGHT
For teacher’s information read John 1:1-12, 8:12, 12:35,46.

PRESENTATION: The best way to bring the truth of this aspect of Christ to the children is to use a light of some description—either a candle or a torch or both.

Ask the children if they have ever been in the dark and felt afraid. Ask them how they felt when the light was turned on. Things always seem worse at night, but when the morning light comes, the problems don’t seem so bad.

Explain that before God created the sun, the whole universe was in complete blackness and God knew that no one could live in utter darkness, so He created light and from that point, He went on to create every living thing.

Discussion points may include:
- Light not only helps us to see, but it also gives us warmth. If eggs are taken from a hen, they are usually put under bright lights so that the warmth from the light will keep the eggs warm until the chickens hatch.
- Lights help to keep us safe, especially when driving at night. Motorists need to use their headlights so they can see the road in front, and their tail lights so that others can see them on the road, and their stop lights and indicators so that other drivers know what they are doing.
- Many signs use lights to give us information and show us the way.
- Flashing red lights warn us of danger, especially at train crossings.

(The children may like to suggest other uses of lights. You could also discuss with them the reason most crimes are committed at night.)

At this point, turn off the lights and darken the room if possible, and say ….

The Bible tells us that people who live without Jesus are like people living in darkness. They cannot really see where they are going, and so they live in danger all the time. The sin in their lives makes them unhappy, but God sent Jesus to be a light.

Now turn on a flashlight or candle, and say ….

When Jesus comes into our life, the sin has to go, just like the darkness has to go when the light is turned on. Darkness ALWAYS moves away from light even if the light is very small. Darkness can never overcome light, just as sin can never overcome Jesus.

Turn on the room lights, and say …. WE are like a torch without batteries if we have not got Jesus in our lives (remove batteries from torch and show that it will not work), but when we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour, He gives us the power to live good lives for Him, so that other people will look at us and want to know Jesus, too (re-insert batteries and shine the torch).
Before God created the sun

God knew that no one could live

We need the light

We need light to make

Sometimes we are

God did not intend for us to

So He sent His Son into the world

Sin is like darkness in our lives, but when we ask Jesus to forgive us our sins and come and live in us, His

As the light of Jesus Christ in us shines more brightly,

and the light of Christ...
things live and grow.  to show us THE WAY.  touches others.

LIGHT shines from us and casts out the darkness.

we become more like Him.  to light up our lives with His love and truth.

the whole universe was completely dark  live in fear and darkness.

without light and warmth.  afraid of the dark.

LIGHT shines from us and casts out the darkness.

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(John 8:12)
How would you live your life for Jesus if you were walking in the light?

AT HOME: ________________________________
______________________________
______________________________

AT SCHOOL: ________________________________
______________________________
______________________________

WITH FRIENDS: ________________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Jesus is the ‘living light’. In him there is no darkness.
JOHN 8:12