

I am the Light of the World



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John 3, 1 John 4: 7-11

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In the previous activity, you had to enter a dark youth room to find a seat with your BDGs. You also found it was probably harder than expected since you had to set up chairs around the tables and things like that. So today we're talking about Jesus as "Light of the World". How so?

I think many of you know what "light of the world" means—you're not in VBS anymore. But the hard part is truly understanding what that means in our lives. There's a story that I heard from my accounting professor about a new angel in heaven. He (or she) just started work, and God had a senior angel sorta introduce him around. So the senior angel did, taking the newbie angel to everything that God has created. He showed the newbie the beautiful stars, the nebulae, the planets, the galaxies, and everything. And it's

all exciting and stuff, but the newbie started to get a little bored. After all, they're all beautiful in the same ways. Eventually, the senior angel brought the newbie angel to Earth.

"Now you pay attention to this one planet here," the senior angel tells the newbie. "It looks small, yes, but this planet is different than all the things we've seen so far."

"What do you mean?" asked the newbie.

"You see, this is the 'visited planet'."

"You mean, our Lord actually went to this place?"

So the senior angel told the newbie of how God created the earth. In the beginning, the newbie saw two lights on the dark planet. "What are those?" he asked. "Those," the senior angel replied, "are the two people made in his image! Adam and Eve." The newbie thought that was kinda cute. But all of a sudden, it disappeared! "What happened?!" asked the newbie. "Well," the senior angel replied, "our great enemy messed things up."

"What?!" the newbie exclaimed! "He always comes at the worst time!"

"But it's not all hopeless," the senior angel responded. "You see, the Spirit of God comes in every now and then to work in the lives of people." The newbie saw the lights going on and off, on and off, until after some time, there was one really bright light.

"Who's that one?"

"It's our Lord, duh," responded the senior angel. "Did you notice how before he came, the world was pretty dark? You see, he came into this world to save people from this darkness. He came to save people from their sins." From that bright light came many smaller lights.

"Oh that's really sweet," the newbie commented. "So, what planet's next?" The newbie thought that was it.

"Wait, wait, wait," the senior angel remarked. "The story's not done yet! Our Lord spent a few years sharing the Good News about him. But..."

"But what?" asked the newbie. All of a sudden, the bright light vanished! And the small lights dimmed.

"Wait a minute! How did that happen?" he asked anxiously. "I thought the bright light was our Lord!"

"It is," the senior angel replied. "They killed him."

"WHAT!?" the newbie quickly responded angrily. "What is WRONG with these people?! How can they kill our LORD?!?!? Don't they KNOW?! How can they do this?"

The senior angel said, "Well, wait a second—take a look." On the earth were a few lights, but they eventually multiplied, until the Earth was brighter! "So you see," remarked the senior angel, "our Lord came to this earth to bring people from their darkness. And I'd say he did a great job."

Last year's theme was *God's Never-ending Story*, and the reason we chose that was because God continues, to this day, to bring people up from the darkness into the light. We live in a world full of sin. People kill people every day. People suffer because of sin every day. You can't prevent it—unless you're God. But just as we have been brought from darkness to light, so we should let God use us to bring others from darkness to light.

My question to you is simple—how bright are you? There's this VBS song "This Little Light of Mine..." Sounds easy and cheesy, but think about it—how many of us really let our light shine? In Matthew, Jesus tells us how silly it is to hide a candle under a bowl. But do we do that? Is Christ not as important as impressing your friends? Having a future filled with money? Looking good in front of people?

Or is your candle hidden because you're focusing on other things? How many of you spend way too much time on YouTube, the telephone chatting with friends, DotA, even schoolwork! Yes—there is such a thing as spending too much time on schoolwork! Maybe it's not how you spend your time, but who you spend your time with. Is there someone pulling you away from being a light?

Jesus is the Light of the World. But this light can only be seen through us. So let us be good witnesses and show others the beauty and brightness that is Christ Jesus'