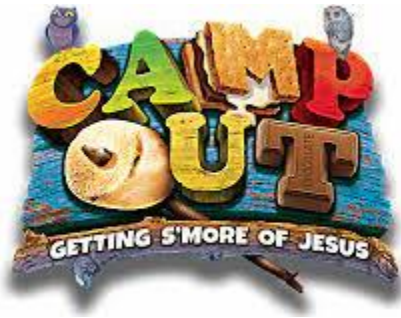




Genesis 1:1-4...*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.*

Isaiah 9:2... *The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.*

Isaiah 60:1,2... *Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*
² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

John 8:12...*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I AM the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life.”*

John 1:1-14... *¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him was not an thing made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the LIGHT of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹² But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

There is so much that can be said about the “Light of the World”, but in a simple summary, ‘Light’ reveals things as they are, in this case Jesus, reveals to us the truth and reality about God, about, salvation, about ourselves and how we should live our lives. The “Light of Jesus’ shines forth so we can know God, reveal our sins and failure and then Jesus, the Light, leads us to God and gives us guidance on how to live our lives in the “light of God’s Love and truth”.

The “Light” of Jesus should not only lead us to truth it should also help us to “see” others that are struggling in the “darkness” of this world. We should walk in the light of God’s love and live our lives in a way that emulates Jesus and His love and caring action toward others. Look at this story that our VBS children studied about how Jesus “Shined His Light & Love “ upon a group of men who were in the ‘darkness’ of sin and rejection.

Luke 17:11-19...¹¹ *On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.* ¹² *And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance*¹³ *and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”*¹⁴ *When Jesus saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed.*¹⁵ *Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice;*¹⁶ *and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.*¹⁷ *Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?”*¹⁸ *Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”*¹⁹ *And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.*

This passage shows us that Jesus and His Light came to bring us love, hope, healing and forgiveness. Sadly, as only one came back to say thank you to Jesus, there were many who did not like the Light of Jesus. They were used to their won ways and did not want to change.

It caused many of them to hate Jesus and want to snuff out His Light! On Day 2 of VBS the kids learned about the last days of Jesus life. In Luke 22, 23 & 24 they learned that Jesus gathered His disciples together to share a meal and to discuss the coming events. He shared that one of them will betray Him to His enemies who will try and block out His life and Light. Later in the darkness of night, Jesus’ enemies came and arrested Him, put Him through illegal trials and had Him declared guilty of heresy and blasphemy and sentenced to death. He was nailed to a cross where His enemies waited to see His Light extinguished so they could continue to their evil in the dark. They thought they had won and seemed like heaven itself agreed.

Listen to

Mark 15:33... *And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.*

What we really see is that God was showing them what the world would be like with the “Light of Jesus”. That afternoon Jesus died, His “Light” seemed extinguished. But three days later as the Light of the New Dawn rose, Jesus “The Light of The World” came forth and shown His glory to all the world.

Because of His resurrection we can now walk in the Light of His Love and truth. Darkness has no hold on us.

Conclusion/ Invitation

John 8:12...Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Matthew 5:14-16...¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

So, the Invitation to each of us is are we going to let the Light of Jesus shine in us to light a dark world so they can see the Love of Jesus and turn to Him in faith and salvation.