

# Moving into the Light

**THEME** *We are called to be light to the world.*

**ENVIRONMENT** *Circle of chairs with a small table in the center. Provide a large candle on the table and small candles or vigil lights for each person attending.*



## Opening

*When all are seated, turn out lights for darkness. Ask participants to sit quietly in the dark for five minutes. After five minutes, light the large candle on the table.*

### Read slowly:

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.” Isaiah 9:1

*Allow another five minutes for experiencing the light. Then turn on all lights.*

### Sharing the experience:

- Share a word or phrase that speaks of your experience in the dark.
- What change did you experience with the lighted candle?



## Readings

Listening to words of Light spoken in Holy Writings--

### 1) QUR'AN - 24:35 AL'NUUR, THE LIGHT

God is the light  
of the heavens and the earth.  
The smile of God's light  
is like a niche in which is a lamp,  
the lamp in a globe of glass,  
the globe of glass as if it were a  
shining star,  
lit from a blessed olive tree  
neither of the East nor of the West,  
its light nearly luminous  
even if fire did not touch it.  
Light upon light!  
God guides to this light  
whomever God will:  
and God gives people examples;  
and God knows all things.

**Sing refrain:** *“We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.”*

c1966 Vernacular Hymns Publishing Company  
(We Are the Light of the World)

### 2) BOOK OF GENESIS 1: 1-3

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, “Let

there be light,” and there was light. God saw how good the light was.

**Sing refrain:** *“We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.”*

### 3) AMERICAN INDIAN - SIOUX

The Sun, the Light of the world,  
I hear Him coming.  
I see his face as He comes.  
He makes the beings  
on earth happy.  
And they rejoice.  
O Wakan-Tanka, I offer to You  
this world of Light.

**Sing refrain:** *“We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.”*

### 4) CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES JOHN 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him,  
and without him  
nothing came to be.  
What came to be through him  
was life, and this life was  
the light of the human race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Sing refrain:** “We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.”



### Reflection

Where in our world today are there places of darkness that need the light?

*(Allow time for sharing.)*

John Ruskin says, “You always know you have been in the presence of a Christian by the trail of light they leave behind.”

What challenge does this give to us when we name the places of darkness in our world today?

*(Allow time for sharing.)*

*Ask each one present to come forward and light a small candle from the large candle as a symbol of commitment to bring light to our world.*

**Leader:** Let us pray together for the gifts we need to “leave a trail of light” in our world:

**All:**  
O Breathing Life,  
your Name shines everywhere!  
Release a space to plant  
your Presence here.  
Envision your “I Can” now.  
Embody your desire  
in every light and form.  
Grow through us  
this moment’s bread and wisdom.  
Untie the knots of failure binding us,  
as we release the strands  
we hold of others’ faults.  
Help us not forget our Source,  
yet free us from not being  
in the Present.  
From you arises every Vision,  
Power, and Song  
from gathering to gathering.  
Amen -  
May our future actions  
grow from here!

*the lord’s prayer  
- from the original aramaic  
([worldprayers.org](http://worldprayers.org))*

### Closing

**Prayer:** We pray in thanks for the gifts we have received and for those in need of light in their lives:

Father, Mother, God,  
Thank you for your presence  
during the hard and mean days.  
For then we have you to lean upon.

Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days, for then we can share that which we have with those who have less.

And thank you for your presence during the Holy Days, for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends.

For those who have no voice, we ask you to speak.  
For those who feel unworthy, we ask you to pour your love out in waterfalls of tenderness.

For those who live in pain, we ask you to bathe them in the river of your healing.  
For those who are lonely, we ask you to keep them company.

For those who are depressed, we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope.

Dear Creator, You,  
the borderless sea of substance,  
we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—*Peace*.

*prayer - maya angelou  
([worldprayers.org](http://worldprayers.org))*

**Sing refrain:** “We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.”



### Acknowledgment

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