

## Equipped to be light

Our new house was complete. It was now ready for us to move in. A few days before the official move, we decided to take some small items to the house so they'd be to hand when we arrived on moving day. It was quite late in the evening when we left to go back to where we were living temporarily. The new house was in the countryside, and there were no street lights. In fact, our electrician hadn't finished wiring up the lights in our drive either. It was completely dark. We began reversing our car down the twisting drive, unable to see where we were going. Several times we overshot the side of the drive and, as the car got stuck in the mud of the uncultivated garden, one of us called out, "If only we had a light so we could see where we're going!" Jesus calls his followers "the light of the world".<sup>1</sup> How does this work in practice?

**Light exposes things done in the dark.** The bible teaches there are those who "*hate the light because they want to sin in the darkness. They stay away from the light for fear their sins will be exposed and they will be punished*".<sup>2</sup> Do you find that some people try to avoid you because you're a follower of Jesus? Could this be because they feel uncomfortable when they compare the way they might be living with the way you live? Don't be discouraged - your light could someday be the means by which they come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

**Light needs to be visible.** What would be the point in lighting a candle, or switching on a torch, and then hiding the light in a box where it couldn't be seen? Doesn't sound too clever, does it? But, how many of us live like this? We *are* the light of the world - Jesus said so - yet all too often we hide that light for various reasons. Perhaps we're afraid of appearing different from those around us, or maybe we feel there isn't any point in letting our light shine in our present circumstances. Whatever the reasons might be, a light is meant to be seen - so let's shine!

**Light enables us to see.** If our drive lights had been functioning when we made that visit to our new house, we would have been able to see where we were going in the dark. One of our responsibilities as the light of the world is to help people see who Jesus is and what the purpose of his life on earth was. In order to do this effectively, we need to know what we believe and then try to communicate this in a way that people can understand.

Perhaps you don't know how to tell others the story of how you became a follower of Jesus. If so, you might find it helps to write down how he changed - and is still changing - your life. Imagine you have three minutes in which to tell your story. A possible outline might look like this.

- Briefly describe your life before you met Jesus.
- Describe how you met him.
- Describe your life after you met Jesus, with emphasis on the difference that having him in your life has made to you.

It's probably not a good idea to memorise your story word-for-word, as it will come across as being stilted and unreal. Instead, familiarise yourself with the main points and you'll find this will help you to communicate clearly. What a great way to shine as the light of the world!

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 5:14

<sup>2</sup> John 3:20 (NLT)