

# Be a light

## **Biblical Material: Proverbs 13.9; Matthew 5.14-16.**

‘People are like a lamp shining brightly.’

‘You are like a light for the world..... No one lights a lamp and hides it under a bowl. Lamps are placed where they can give light to the whole room. In the same way you must shine like a light before others.’

### **You will need:**

- A torch.
- A candle in a tray of damp sand.
- A bucket (metal or plastic).
- Matches.

### **Introduction.**

Ask pupils, in turn, to come to the front and turn on the torch, saying when they would use it. Several pupils can do this citing different situations. Talk about finding your way in the dark with a torch. Ask when they may need a candle. Share experiences of power cuts.

### **Core Material**

Read the Biblical Material. The Bible talks about goodness as a light. Shakespeare used a similar saying, in the play, ‘The Merchant of Venice’. One of his characters comments on a candle and says, ‘So shines a good deed in a naughty world.’

Sometimes people do not know what to do or which way to take in life. When someone shows others how to behave by setting a good example, they are acting like a light or a torch. A torch shows us the way to go at night: a good person can show us the way to live.

Jesus told people to shine out clearly, their behaviour setting a shining example to others. You may wish to introduce some examples of people who have been ‘shining examples’ to others. Jesus warned people against hiding their ‘light’ under a bowl.

Demonstrate this by taking a large bucket and placing it over a torch or place a metal bucket over a candle. Under a bucket, a torch is no use to anyone. Similarly, if a person does not show others how to live by their good example, it’s like putting a torch under a bucket: it’s no use to anyone there.

Christians have often used the image of a light in their songs of worship, from the Victorian song ‘Jesus bids us shine’, to songs such as ‘This little light of mine.’ (Both are in Junior Praise, details in Music Index.). Pupils might like to sing one of these if appropriate.

### **Prayer/Reflection**

Light the candle. While the children are looking at the candle, ask them to think of people who have set a good example to them, for whom they can say thank you.

*For those who have set us shining examples of how to live, we thank you. Give us the strength, God, to be responsible and set an example to others.*

*Note.* For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11. Remember to extinguish the candle.

