

WATCH FOR THE LIGHT

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John 1: 1-5, 14,16

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 into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,* and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,* full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

BIG IDEAS

1. **Might makes right** is *not* what God is all about. The story of Jesus turns this human aspiration upside down.
2. **Becoming real makes light** is the journey of God, and the invitation for each of us.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. What flickers of light do you notice in your life or in our world that suggest God is still present and active?
3. What does it mean that God became flesh and dwelt among us (fancy theological terms is incarnation)? How is that significant to your faith or understanding of God?
4. What do you make of the idea that "whenever someone is real--vulnerable, honest, authentic--a light shines in the darkness"? In what ways have you experienced that in your life?
5. How are you working to become more real with yourself, with others, or with the world? Why is that so hard?
6. How can we help others--our family, our friends, our co-workers, our peers, our church family--become real?

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from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes --
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

- Jan Richardson

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