



Love Came Down – Christingle: Love That Shines

Date: Sunday 27th November

Speaker: Lauren Morris (City Centre), Eleanor Masters (South),
Rachel Binder (East)

Key Verses: Zephaniah 3:17, John 3:16

Talk Summary:

- Darkness can be scary, and the world can feel dark sometimes – all the bad things that exist in our world like sickness, war and people’s sin can be scary and make us feel sad, lonely and afraid.
- We get rid of darkness with light! We can’t end the world’s darkness in our own strength, we need help from Jesus, a source of light and hope coming from outside our messed-up world, powerful enough to overcome any darkness.
- Jesus told us the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) to teach us about the love God has for us. God is like the father in the story, always celebrating when we come back to him through the unconditional, overflowing and scandalous love of God.
- The love the father showed stood out like a light in the darkness as he delighted in his son, calmed his fears and threw a party in his honour (Zephaniah 3:17).
- Jesus comes as the Light because we are too spiritually blind to find our own way. We are all the son in the story, often getting lost and walking away from God, and he is the saving light that guides us back through the darkness to his love.
- The awesome thing is, when we know the love God has for us and that Jesus is our light, we carry His light to the world around us, as Jesus himself tells us in John 8:12. We can be a light in dark places through Jesus, guiding people towards him and the love and hope that he brings.
- Christingles help to remind us of all of the above! The orange represents the world that Jesus created and holds in his hands, the sticks and sweets represent the gifts that Jesus gives us in each season, the ribbon

represents the everlasting love of Jesus through his blood shed on the cross and the candle represents the light of Jesus over all.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What does carrying the light of Jesus look like in your life?
- How can you carry and share the light of Jesus this week?
- Who can you invite to the carol services and/or Kids parties on 11th Dec?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)
 - Reflective Service – 26th November

Other Notices:

- **Encounter Night – Sat 3rd December – 7:30pm** – City Centre Site - Join us as we come together to seek God in worship, to glorify Him and to intercede corporately for issues in our nation. We look forward to seeing you there.