

**Resources for
Pray for Schools Fortnight
10th to 23rd May 2015**



Let your light shine!



Jesus said “You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world!

God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you?

I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! ”

Matthew 5;14,15

Did you know that 2015 is the UNESCO's International Year of Light?



They want to let people know more about the life-giving power of light and the way that amazing light-based technologies are making a brilliant difference in areas like energy, education, agriculture and health right around the world. Light plays a vital role in our daily lives. It has led to inventions and ideas that have revolutionized medicine, opened up international communication via the Internet. And it's central to linking cultural, economic and political aspects of global society.

So we decided to join in and adopt the theme for Pray for Schools fortnight.



One of the ways in which Jesus described Himself was as 'The Light of the World.' The famous Holman-Hunt picture of the same name, of Christ standing at the door of our lives hangs in St Paul's Cathedral and has inspired Christians for many generations.

Jesus says "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8v12



As His followers we are called to shine too and there are so many ways to do that. Our lighthouse picture is a reminder of how far light can travel across the sea; a guiding beam for ships, warning them of potential danger. Like a beacon on a hill or a lamp up on a stand we too can be lights for the world.

It's amazing to reflect on the many forms that this thing called light can take!

These are some we thought of :-

- * *floodlights illuminating the architecture of a special building*
- * *lamps in a window welcoming us home on a dark evening*
- * *searchlights uncovering situations of wrongdoing and difficulty*
- * *streetlights preventing people from stumbling and discouraging crime*
- * *candles helping us to relax and to meditate*
- * *spotlights focussing on a dancer or other performer on the stage*
- * *traffic signals to keep roads safe for drivers and pedestrians*
- * *lasers used for surgery, reading bar codes, cutting through metal*
- * *the glory of a rainbow reminding us of God's love and care*

As light bearers we can bless our communities with what is good; sharing the truth of the gospel and living out the love of Jesus. This is especially true of our schools.

Heavenly Father, may we be light bearers for You;

coming alongside those who are living in the shadow of pain, fear, loneliness or any other trouble.

Let the beauty of Your life-giving light transform every aspect of our schools

and bring joy and hope to students, teachers and everyone else who is part of our community.

Please send Your Holy Spirit to guide us in our prayers for them

and spur us into action to bless others.

In the power of Christ. Amen.

Activities:

Use a pack of different coloured tealights. Each colour could represent a group of children in your school.

For example

red those taking exams
blue those struggling with bullying
green those with upsets at home
yellow those who are ill
purple those with special needs
white all children in your area

Choose one colour from the tea lights and pray for those children. Take it in turns to choose and pray. When all are lit it is like a rainbow effect—praying God's promises on every child. Take care with tealights and extinguish all tealights after this activity

Barnabas in Schools have a page of further reflections using candles

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/candle-prayers-for-reflection/>

We also like this idea from Bristol and Bath Diocese

http://www.bristol.anglican.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Creative_Prayer_ideas.pdf Page 9

Materials: large lit candle, candle prayer cards, pencils, words sheets listed below:

Words and phrases on individual sheets: sadness, darkness, abuse, sorrow, pain, suffering, light, love, care, hope, family, forgiveness, relief, happiness, healing, recovery, safety.

Jesus said I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness. (John 8:12)

The light of Christ came into the world to shine in all dark places and sad situations. As we remember children we think of Jesus the light, and ask his light to shine in the pain that some children face.

Look at the flame shining and bringing light

Look at the words on the wall

Write a prayer on the candle card using some of the words on the wall

We worship You Lord Jesus, Light of the World!

Darkness cannot hide from Your brightness.

Your Word illuminates and guides us on our way.

Your loving forgiveness lights up our hearts and minds.

We look to the dawning of Your coming kingdom and put all our trust in You!

For Your name's sake. Amen.