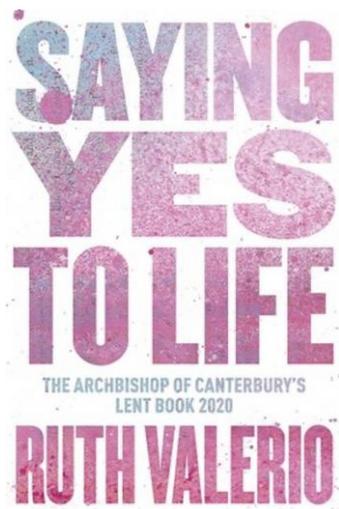


Week 1. Let There Be Light

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.' And there was evening, and there was morning— the first day.



Throughout the Old Testament God's presence as light acts as guidance in the darkness to show his people the way and how to follow him. Light as the presence of God is carried into the New Testament.

Jesus is the light and life of the world (John 9) and 'the radiance of God's glory' (Hebrews 1:3). He is the Word made flesh, and the same power of the word of God – that brings into existence what he speaks and that brings order out of the darkness of chaos – is in Jesus too.

'Light is the foundation of life: the essential building-block, created on the First Day, emanating from the Word and the Spirit of God. It is so foundational that we can live in it and yet miss its beauty and wonder. We are in fact completely dependent on light.'

Questions for Groups

If you have read the Introduction to the Course book, you will have learnt about ancient Creation accounts that parallel that of our biblical genesis account. (You might like to watch an excellent youTube clip that explains the Babylonian Story of Creation to gain a different perspective of Creation as understood by ancient peoples.)

Q How does having an understanding of how ancient peoples explained Creation affect your understanding of this first biblical account of creation?

Q What place does God as creator have in your faith and in that of your church?

Q How might it make a difference if that understanding was more strongly emphasised?

Q Where does light feature in your own life?

Q Can you share any particular experiences that have given you a new appreciation of light?

Further Activities you may choose to do later on

Light is a regular theme throughout the Bible. God uses it to help us understand big ideas (the person and purpose of Jesus is described as the light and life of the world in Hebrews 1:13). God also uses light to guide his people into his purposes (the pillar of fire guiding the Israelites out of Egypt in Exodus 13:21-22).

Write down any parts of the Bible that talk about light

Read Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 33:6-9 & Job 38:1,4-7

- If you had to describe each passage in 3 words, what would they be?
- What does each passage tell you about who God is?
- What does each passage tell you about who we are?