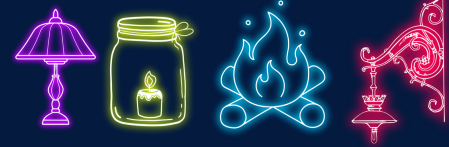




MANY STORIES ONE LIGHT



LISTEN

Slide 14: We make the sign of the cross together and reflect for a moment at the light we can bring to others.

Slide 15: Click play (with sound on)

Slide 16: You could ask a participant to read the scripture for you. You could then ask someone to read the following reflection:

When Jesus says, "You are the light of the world," he isn't talking to a select group of people who have it all together.... He's speaking to everyone.

Not because we're perfect, and not because we always know what we're doing, but because God has a way of working through ordinary lives. You notice it when someone quietly helps another person without making a fuss. Or when someone brings calm to a situation that felt tense. Or when a person simply shows up for a friend who needs them.

In the Vincentian tradition, a way of living the Gospel inspired by St Vincent de Paul, we believe that every person has God-given dignity and that faith is something we put into action. It means noticing people who might otherwise be overlooked, seeing Christ in them, and responding with love in a way that is practical and real. In that same tradition, holiness has never really been about standing out or being seen. It's about noticing people properly and allowing God's love to reach them through us.

RESPOND

Slide 17: The challenge for us this year is simple:

Can we notice the light in people whose stories are different from our own?

Can we allow our own light to shine for others?

We take a moment to pause and bring our thoughts and prayers together before the One whose light we carry into the world through our words and actions.

Slide 18: God of light,
help us to carry your light into this new year.
May we use our gifts generously,
welcome one another warmly,
and bring hope to those we meet.
May our many stories reflect your one light.
Amen.

Slide 19: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.