



## St Barnabas Cray

# "Power On: Connecting to Jesus, the Light"

## Weekly Devotional Journey

### Monday - When the Lights Go Out

#### Morning Devotion

##### Today's Verse

John 1:1-5

#### Devotional Thought

Imagine coming home to find your electricity cut off - no lights, no power, just darkness and cold. It's not really living, is it? This is precisely the picture John paints of our world before Jesus came. People were trying to live without the power connected, waiting without hope in the darkness. But John tells us something extraordinary: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Before everything existed, Jesus existed. He isn't just another nice teacher who showed up later - He is God's voice, God's message, and God's self-expression. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. When we call the electricity company, we hope for a quick response. But God didn't just send a message or representative - the power company and chief electrician turned up at our door.

##### Reflection Question

What areas of your life feel like they're operating 'without power' - lacking hope, purpose, or light?

### **From Sunday's Sermon**

"John is saying the world was like that before Jesus came, that people were trying to live without the power connected. They're waiting without hope in the darkness, without light."

### **Today's Application**

Today, identify one area where you've been trying to 'manage in the dark' without Jesus' power. Consciously invite His light into that specific situation through prayer.

### **Morning Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are the true light that gives light to everyone. Help me recognise where I've been trying to live without Your power connected. Shine Your light into the dark areas of my life today. Amen.

### **Evening Devotion**

#### **The Power Is Available**

#### **Evening Reflection**

Unlike those payment metres that require constant topping up with cash, Jesus offers us something remarkable - His power is freely available to all who receive Him. There's no running out, no need to find more money, no fear of being cut off. The life and light He offers are accessible and available, not because we've earned them, but because He came for us. As we step into this new year with its unknowns and uncertainties, we can live with confidence knowing God is with us.

#### **Evening Reflection**

How does knowing that Jesus' power is freely available change your approach to tomorrow's challenges?

### **Evening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your power isn't rationed or reserved for the wealthy. Help me rest in the truth that Your presence is with me, accessible and available. Amen.

## **Tuesday - God in Skin and Bones**

### **Morning Devotion**

#### **Today's Verse**

John 1:14

### **Devotional Thought**

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. Think about this staggering truth - God took on skin and bones! Just as we relate to the places we live in, God related to a particular time and place in history. Can you imagine being Jesus' family, slowly realising what it meant to have the Son of God learning to be human in your home? Picture seeing God blessing, laughing, eating, and getting tired, cold, and hungry. The One who made the universe became a baby. This means we don't have to guess what God is like - we can see who He is when we look at Jesus. He was the true light that gives light to everyone coming into the world. That means everyone, no matter what qualifications you might have, whether religious or irreligious, young or old.

#### **Reflection Question**

How does the reality of God becoming human change how you view your own humanity and daily experiences?

### **From Sunday's Sermon**

"God came and the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. That means God took on skin and bones."

### **Today's Application**

Throughout today, remember that Jesus understands your human experience - your tiredness, your frustrations, your joys. Talk to Him about your day as someone who truly gets it.

### **Morning Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for becoming human, for understanding what it's like to live in skin and bones. Help me remember that You relate to every part of my human experience today. Amen.

### **Evening Devotion**

#### **Children of the Light**

#### **Evening Reflection**

To all who received Him, Jesus gave the right to become children of God. There's real dignity and status in being seen as a child of someone important. When we trust in Jesus, we're welcomed into God's family. This isn't about our qualifications or achievements - it's about receiving Him, accepting His message. As God's children, we carry His light within us, not as something we've earned, but as a gift of grace.

#### **Evening Reflection**

What does it mean to you personally to be called a child of God?

#### **Evening Prayer**

Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus. Help me live today with the confidence and dignity of being Your beloved child. Amen.

## Wednesday - Light Reveals What Needs Fixing

### Morning Devotion

#### Today's Verse

John 1:5

### Devotional Thought

When we turn on a light in a house, it brings good news - we can see! But light also highlights things we might prefer to keep hidden. It might show up dust, mess, or things that need attention. This can be uncomfortable, but it's actually good news because we can't fix what we can't see. Jesus isn't a cosy therapist who just agrees with whatever we want. He is our Lord and Saviour, and He wants to show us truth. The light shines in the darkness, helping us see those dark patches in our world that might need changing, thinking about, or renewing. Sometimes light needs to be shone on things that need fixing. This isn't condemnation - it's love wanting to bring wholeness and healing to our lives.

#### Reflection Question

What areas of your life might Jesus be gently illuminating that need His healing touch?

#### From Sunday's Sermon

"Light shows us some of the things that are not right, things that are wrong in our lives for good.

Because He isn't a cosy therapist that just agrees with whatever we want."

### Today's Application

Ask Jesus to show you one area where His light reveals something that needs attention. Respond with openness rather than defensiveness, trusting His loving intentions.

### **Morning Prayer**

Lord Jesus, I invite Your light to shine into every corner of my life. Help me welcome Your truth, even when it reveals things that need changing. I trust Your loving purposes. Amen.

## **Evening Devotion**

### **The Light Keeps Shining**

#### **Evening Reflection**

Unlike electricians who show up and then leave, Jesus doesn't offer us a one-off experience and then abandon us. His light keeps shining throughout this year and beyond. We have each other as a church community, and we have Jesus through His Spirit to constantly remind us of His light. The wonderful thing about Jesus' ministry is that it's ongoing - He continues to work in and through us.

#### **Evening Reflection**

How have you experienced Jesus' ongoing presence and light in your life recently?

### **Evening Prayer**

Thank You, Jesus, that Your light doesn't flicker or fade. Help me be aware of Your constant presence and draw strength from Your unfailing light. Amen.

## Thursday - Light Bearers, Not Light Hoarders

### Morning Devotion

#### Today's Verse

Matthew 5:14-16

### Devotional Thought

When we turn on lights in a house, the light isn't just there for one person - it spreads as far as it can go. The same is true with Jesus, the light of the world. His light isn't meant to be kept to ourselves but shared with others. How do we do this? Through the way we live and the way we stay close to Jesus' life revealed in the Bible. Jesus showed us through the Gospels how to live well as godly people. Even though we might not always match up to that standard, He keeps giving us inspiration to help our words and actions align with what God is calling us to be. Let's commit to being light-sharers, not just light-receivers, both in how we gather together to worship and in how we share God's good news with others in our community.

#### Reflection Question

In what practical ways can you share Jesus' light with others today through your words and actions?

#### From Sunday's Sermon

"When we turn the lights on, the light is not just there just for me or just for you... it's there to spread."

### Today's Application

Choose one specific way to be a light-bearer today - perhaps through encouragement, practical help, or simply reflecting Jesus' love in your interactions.

### **Morning Prayer**

Lord Jesus, You called me to be light in this world. Help me not to hide Your light under a bushel, but to let it shine through my life for others to see. Amen.

## **Evening Devotion**

### **Glory in Ordinary Places**

#### **Evening Reflection**

John reminds us that we have seen His glory - but this glory came in very ordinary circumstances. Not in shiny palaces or amongst the wealthy, but in common places: a baby in a feeding trough, a man washing His followers' feet, someone welcoming children, someone dying on a cross. God's glory is self-giving glory, found in humble, everyday places. This means your ordinary life is exactly where God's glory can be revealed.

#### **Evening Reflection**

Where do you see opportunities for God's glory to shine through ordinary moments in your life?

#### **Evening Prayer**

Father, thank You that Your glory isn't confined to grand places but shines through ordinary, humble circumstances. Help me recognise and reflect Your glory in my everyday life. Amen.

## Friday - Living with Power Connected

### Morning Devotion

#### Today's Verse

Isaiah 9:2

### Devotional Thought

As we reflect on this week's journey, the question remains: Are you living with the power connected to Jesus' light this year, or are you getting by with just candles? Remember, God loves us so much that He sent His Word to become flesh. Isaiah's prophecy rings true: 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.' Jesus boldly declared, 'I am the light of the world.' This isn't just a nice religious sentiment - it's a life-transforming reality. His light shines all the way from those ancient days to reach us now, and we can share it not just individually in whatever we're doing this week, but as a church community. Are we keeping the lights on, not just financially, but in how we treat each other, worship together, talk over coffee, and look towards hopeful things?

#### Reflection Question

As you look ahead, what would it mean for you to live fully 'connected' to Jesus' power rather than just managing with candles?

#### From Sunday's Sermon

"Are you living with the power connected to Jesus' light this year, or are you getting by with just candles?"

### Today's Application

Make a specific commitment about how you'll stay 'connected' to Jesus' power in the coming weeks  
- through prayer, Scripture, community, or service.

### **Morning Prayer**

Lord Jesus, I don't want to just survive on candles when Your full power is available. Connect me deeply to Your light and help me live as a true child of the light. Amen.

## **Evening Devotion**

### **Putting Flesh on the Word**

#### **Evening Reflection**

The Word became flesh and moved into our neighbourhood. Now it's our turn to put flesh on God's Word - to give Him our hands and feet in our homes, jobs, and streets. We're called to be His physical presence in the world, carrying His light into every situation we encounter. This is the privilege and responsibility of being light-bearers in a world that desperately needs to see the true light.

#### **Evening Reflection**

How will you 'put flesh on God's Word' in your specific circumstances this weekend?

### **Evening Prayer**

Father, just as Your Word became flesh in Jesus, help me to embody Your love and light in my world. Use my hands and feet to serve others and reflect Your glory. Amen.