

Need

- dictionary
 - torch
 - tent
 - letters of "Light", "Life" and "Word" on card, plus blu tac!
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Darkness into Light (1)

Illustration 1: tent

- Get the tent out, still in its pack
 - image: man walking with backpack, going camping...
 - talk about tents, when you'd use them, what different kinds there are...

Illustration 2: instructions

- Get out a sheet of instructions
 - image: tangled tent!
 - study instruction sheet as if puzzled by it...
 - then ask for help, getting someone out to help me put it up
 - erect tent, then put dictionary, letters, and torch inside

Illustration 3: dictionary

- *Get a child to fetch the dictionary...*
 - image: reading dictionary
- Dictionaries are full of words
- The Greeks loved words
 - they loved to talk and think about the latest thing
 - the crack, the gossip, the buzz...
 - more than anything else they loved to talk about ultimate reality
 - the deep stuff. Life, the universe, everything. God...
 - they called this ultimate reality **WORD** - which is a lot easier to say than ultimate metaphysical reality!
 - what we read earlier was John telling us that Jesus is the crack, the gossip, the buzz, the ultimate reality - the **Word**

Illustration 4: "Word"

- *image: word*
- Going to have something to remind us of what we've been talking about
 - got the letters in the tent, but need someone to help me assemble it...
 - get a child to come out and assemble "WORD", sticking it up on wall with blu tac (yellow card)

Illustration 5: torch

- *Get someone to fetch torch*
 - image: torch
- Everyone understands light
 - you can't turn on the dark!!
 - you can (demonstrate!) turn on the light
 - a torch is really useful when you are camping...
- John describes Jesus as the light, shining in the darkness so we can see and understand ultimate reality
 - showing things as they really are, even if that's often not how they seem

Illustration 6: "Light"

- *image: light*
- Another reminder of what we've been talking about:
 - got the letters in the tent, but need someone to help me assemble it...
 - get a child to come out and assemble "LIGHT", sticking it up on wall with blu tac (white card)

Sing

- Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness
- Into the darkness of this world

Darkness into Light (2)

Illustration 7: "Life"

- *Image: sitting outside tent*
- When camping goes well perhaps you can imagine waking up on a fine day and saying:
 - this is the life!
- John says here that the one who gave us life in the first place came and lived among us
 - one translation of John 1:14 (The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us) would be "he pitched his tent amongst us"
- Final reminder of what we're talking about:
 - get a child to come out and assemble "LIFE", sticking it up on wall with blu tac (green card)

Illustration 8: John 10:10b

- *Image: "Life"*
- Later in the book that John wrote about Jesus' life, he quotes Jesus saying:
 - I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10b)
- Jesus is the **word**, the ultimate reality
- Jesus is the **light**, showing us the way things truly are
- Jesus is the **life**, living amongst us
 - and inviting us to live life to the full, which is only properly possible with him involved in our lives
 - that's why he came as a baby, so we could live life to the full!
- Lead into invitation to Alpha course, or to church any Sunday
 - pray...
 - sing: "O come all you faithful" (367)