

## **New beginnings - Life light and love notes for the House groups based on John1:1-5**

### **Welcome:**

**Worship:** Possible songs – Light of the world; Shine Jesus shine; For God so loved...

**Word:** Main reading John 1:1-5

In the Beginning was the word -A term of new beginnings. Exodus 6:1-8

John is trying to help his readers understand, right from the start; that for God there is no beginning and no end. He was and is and always will be. He is eternal and omnipotent. He is referred to in the Old Testament as ‘I am’ –The God who always is. And in the beginning was Jesus, referred to by John as ‘the word’ Greeks would understand this in terms of reason and rationality of the universe and Jews would understand this in terms of God. Also, throughout John’s Gospel we see interwoven three themes of life’ light and love. God’s love for his Creation is demonstrated by his sending His Son, the word, who was there from the start, to enter into our time and space and become a man and live a life that demonstrates the perfect power of God; and his life for eternity for us, the light that he brought to us through His Son and his ultimate sacrificial love for us all.

### **1.Life through Jesus**

John 10:10; John 10:27-28; John 5:24-30

Through Jesus we now have access to eternal life beginning now and for ever. We can access this love through the act of repentance – turning from our own way to God’s way. Our world is crying out for the meaning to life. Unless we show the life that is to be had through Christ the world will continue to look in the wrong places.

**Question:** Talk about your own conversion. How did you come to know Christ’s saving love in your life? How do you share it with others? Where is the world looking for meaning to life?

**2 .Light of Christ.** – Rev 3:20; Isaiah9:2; 1John1:7: Matt 5:14-16

Use a picture of the Holman Hunt painting of the Light of the world and talk about the meaning of this picture. Look at the shut door and Jesus knocking on the door. What does this symbolize?

We are the privileged people who no longer walk in darkness. But John is telling us that once we accept Jesus’ love it is just the start of an exciting journey. It is not something static we are to actively walk in the light.

**Question:** using these verses discuss how we can actively show Christ’s light to the world?

### **3.Love through Jesus: John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 13**

John 3:16 tells us what God has done for us. I Corinthians 13 shows love in practice.

For every new beginning there has to be a choice. People will eventually come to a crossroads where they have to decide between God’s way, or their own way, without God. Eventually there has to be a decision about which way to go.

**Question:** What are the benefits of going God’s way based on 1 Corinthians 13 and John 3:16?

### **Witness:**

Look as a group and as individuals at the opportunities that are coming up to witness this term and beyond. EG Alpha, Parish visiting; Christingle; Holiday club; Back to church etc How can you use these and other opportunities for God?