

## Reflection - Lucy Smith: I Am Light of World

Mōrena St's Georges, as a part of the youth service, I will be reflecting on John 8:12-19.

Reflecting on scripture is something I have never done before, especially in a church full of people. As we have heard, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We all know light comes in many different forms. Light is the foundation of life, it makes plants grow, illuminates the world, and shines in the darkness. Jesus is the light, the foundation of our lives. I see myself as a seedling growing under the sun of God.

"Light" is a complex metaphor with many layers of meaning. As I pondered on this abstract idea, it helped me to remember that we have a real person to follow, someone I can ask, "Do I shine my light?" A new insight I have gained from doing this reflection is that God's light is all around us, but it sometimes requires effort to see. This passage has encouraged me to reflect the light in whatever form that may be. Although I am just beginning my learning, I know that the power of Christ's light will guide me in difficult situations. Leaving high school will be a new journey for me, and I will be exposed to the world in a new way. The metaphor of Christ as light is comforting, as light overcomes ALL darkness.

Personally I imagine God's light not as a shield, but as an illuminated force field protecting me.

When Jesus says, "I am the light of the world," this means to me, being able to have an open heart, and to let Christ's light into the corners of my own heart and life, so that we can each become reflections of that light. While we may think this makes us all the same, I am learning this helps me embrace my individuality. I am encouraged when I see others reflect the light of Christ in their own way. The Gospel of John begins with the idea of True Light coming into the world, mentions John the Baptist as a witness to (or perhaps we might say, a reflection of) the light. I want to explore what it looks like for each of us to reflect Christ's light.

The amazing thing about the light of Christ is that it allows us to shine in our own ways. Each of us are created and called to reflect the light of Christ differently. Perhaps some of us are disco

balls, others mirrors, some torches, candles, or even the gentle reflection of light on a still lake. The key is that we all shine! It's easy to see someone else's dazzling lights, and think that we are not doing enough, or reflecting Christ's light in the right way. Even so, Jesus said, "*whoever* follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *Whoever* means each of us who follow Christ in our different ways. We are all reflections of Christ's light, made to serve the Lord and when we bring these lights together we build the kingdom of God. The disco ball is different to the mirror, but they are of the same value to God. It's very easy to compare yourself, I think comparison is something we can all fall victim to. We need to ask God to show us *how* we are made to reflect the light, and remember that all of us are made in his image. This idea of the different and unique ways we are created to shine God's light came through in the youth video. Lizzy said that walking in God's light is "realising that who you are is not based on what others think." And Abram said "God has made me the way I am for a reason." This particular reflection resonates with me, because we can't be anything more than who we are. And who we are is exactly how God intended us to be.

Over the coming week, I will be dwelling on where God may be directing me to shine my light and I invite you to join me. I want to encourage you to do the same, be the light and know that however you shine, you glow in God's image. Perhaps you feel, you may be walking in darkness? Or maybe there are dark corners in your own heart that you have not opened up to light of Christ? I am encouraged by what Lizzie said, "what is dark now won't be dark forever."

So as Lizzie prays, and then we will sing Fresh Wind, reflect on these two questions:

- Are there areas in your life in need of Christ's light?
- How do you uniquely reflect the light of Christ to others?

For some of us, especially I think us youth, it can be hard for us to see how we shine the light of Christ. So I leave you with a final challenge: encourage someone today who you see as shining the light of Christ's for you, and let them know how it affects you.