

**This Week's Worship: The Word and the Light**

**Opening**

Wherever we come together,

**God is with us.**

**God is here.**

We come together to say sorry

We come together to say Thank you

We come together to ask for God's help

We come together to hear God's story

We come together to celebrate God's love.

Wherever we come together,

**God is with us.**

**God is here.**

**Saying Sorry**

*Hold onto a stone and think about things that you have done this week you would like to say sorry for.*

God loves us and forgives us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.

For times this week when we have made others sad.

**We are sorry.**

For times this week when we have not helped others

**We are sorry.**

For times this week when we have not looked after your creation,

**We are sorry**

For times this week when we have been selfish

**We are sorry**

*Put the stone in a bowl of water*

As we leave these things behind, may God forgive us and give us a new, clean start today.

**Amen**

**Saying thank you**

*To join in you will need: some slips of paper, some pens and an empty jam jar (you can join in without this for the first few weeks but can then join in when you have had the time to put some things in the jar!)*

*Ask each person to draw or write down on one of the slips something they would like to say thank you for and put it in the jar. As we pray, pull a slip out of the jar and say thank you for what is written on it.*

*Continue to fill the jar during the week.*

God, you are amazing and you have given us good things. We thank you for all your gifts to us.

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...  
Amen

*Continue until everyone has had a chance to say something.*

### **Story and response**

Listen to this week's story or read a story from the Bible. This week's story is from John: 1

I wonder which part of this story you liked the most?

I wonder what surprised you about this story?

I wonder what this story makes you feel?

I wonder where you are in this story?

Do you wonder anything about this story?

### **Prayers**

In today's story we see that Jesus is called the Word and the Light. He has come to bring people life and hope in dark and difficult times. The life and hope is for everyone who wants to have it. The light and hope that Jesus brings can never be put out like we can blow the lights of candles out. It is stronger than all of the bad things in the world. Think about who might be feeling that the world is a dark place right now- maybe people who are ill or worried or scared. Write some ideas down on pieces of paper and light a candle next to each word. Pray that you and people who are finding life hard will come to know about light in the darkness and the good things that Jesus brings.

You will need: candles, matches, paper, pens

**Jesus, thank you that, even when the world around us seems dark and worrying and scary, you are always with us, shining like a light in the darkness. Thank you that none of the bad things in the world will ever be strong enough to put your light out. When we are sad or scared or worried, give us hope, help us to feel safe and show us the way to go as we live our lives. Amen**

### **Close**

Wherever we come together,

**God is with us.**

**God is here.**

May God bless us.

May we know that we are loved

May we know that we are cared for.

May we know God's hope.

**God is with us**

**God is here**

**Amen.**

*Extinguish the candle.*

