

## 2. CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

Our gallery tour today begins in total darkness. There is no one here, ... except God. He is with us ... even in the dark. Before God created the universe, no light existed, not even the tiniest glimmer of light. Learn how Creation Week began by reading *Genesis 1:3-5*.

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God delivers several important messages in these verses. The Creator wants us to focus on the design of the new home he is planning to give to humankind. He has literally been planning this project forever. Now he wants to share the basic specs for this expansive new realm.

God's new realm—the universe—was very different from his own spiritual realm. By creating light first, God was also introducing the dimensions of time, space, and change. Light figures in all three dimensions. They were essential elements of God's creation. You and I wouldn't be able to have a physical body if we did not exist in the dimensions of time, space, and change.

In the spiritual realm where God lives, light isn't necessary. God doesn't have eyes, yet he sees everything. Nor does he eat; God thrives on love. The light God called into being on day one was not sunlight. The sun, moon, and stars wouldn't be created for three more days. God's **prototype** for light is more than a physical wonder or a scientific mystery. Light has a spiritual aspect that is beyond the understanding of science. (See *Luke 2:9-10*.)

Science still doesn't fully understand what light is, or how it works. Experts are still trying to understand if light shines in waves, particles, or a combination of both. The Bible hints that a full explanation for light recognizes the mystery of God's glory and the radiant beauty of his Son as the keys to understanding light (*Revelation 21:23*). Maybe the true nature of light will continue to remain God's secret formula until we get to heaven.

Time began when God created light. In an instant, and by the power of his word, the clock began ticking for the changing of the seasons or the sound of your alarm clock to start a new day.

Are you beginning to get the picture? God exists beyond the dimensions of time, space, and change. The point is that God wasn't making the new universe for himself. Creation was being custom-made for people. We needed time, space, change, and the mystery of light just to exist.

Change is especially important among the Creator's new innovations. God never changes. His promises never change. His truth never changes. His love never changes. The fancy word to describe our changeless God is **immutable**. The new realm God created for human beings, however, is constantly changing. You and I can't escape it. Some changes happen so fast we aren't aware they are happening. Our movements change position. Our perspective changes the landscape. Sin changed the way we view each other and God. But change is also part of the good news for sinners. Jesus changes sinful hearts with his forgiveness. People whose hearts have been changed in the sacrament of baptism begin to think, speak, and act more like Jesus. God changes us from sinner to **saint**. Be patient, it all takes time.

The study of light is fascinating. The light of our faith is even more wonderful. But be careful not to start to think that you generated your own faith. You and I don't have that kind of power. God's Holy Spirit gave you the gift of faith. On the day of your **baptism**, God's Spirit turned the switch—the light of your faith—*ON*. In that miracle moment, God completely changed the spiritual direction of your life on earth, and for all eternity (*Psalm 119:105*).

END VIDEO. BEGIN CONVERSATIONS.

## REMEMBER WHEN ...

What part of God's creation first captured your interest and attention? Explain how that new interest changed the way you viewed the world you live in or the kind of life you lead.

## WORD POWER: **prototype; immutable; saint; baptism**

## FROM THE TOUR

Read *Luke 2:8-9*. Some people are afraid of the dark. What were the shepherds afraid of in this text? Why do you think they were afraid?

## LEARN MORE

Read *John 8:12*. Why is it significant that Jesus introduced himself with the words, *I am*?

Read *Revelation 22:5*. What will be the real light source in heaven?

Read *Matthew 5:14-16*. If Jesus is *the light of the world*, how can we be the light of the world?

## TAKE-AWAYS

After studying the creation of light, we should say a prayer to thank God for ...



You, LORD, keep my lamp burning;  
my God turns my darkness into light.

*Psalm 18:28*