

Short Talk

(SHT083)

The Invisible God Became Visible

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “The Invisible God Became Visible”

- Aim of Short talk:** To teach that Jesus, the invisible God became flesh and came to live amongst us; showing us what God is really like.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Jesus, Incarnation
- Biblical references:** John 1:1-14
- Lectionary:** Year B – The 2nd Sunday before Lent
- Props:** You will need an “Invisible ink pen with either inbuilt UV light or a UV torch,”¹ two pieces of A5 paper and a table to write on.
- Before the service:** On 1 of the pieces of A5 paper draw the following using the invisible ink pen:
 1. a very simple outline of a baby boy. (See Appendix 1)
Note: Check this out first before the service so that you are confident that your image can be easily recognised when the UV light is shone upon it.

Who would like to write a secret encouraging message to a friend or a family member who is here with you today? *(Receive responses)*

- Come and join me. *(Person joins you)*

Here is an invisible ink pen and a piece of paper. *(Hand over the invisible ink pen and show them the piece of plain A5 paper laid out on the table.)*

- Who is the friend/family member that you would like to write a message to? *(Person responds)*
- Can you write a one sentence secret message to them that says something that you like about them? OK? *(Person writes their secret message)*

I wonder what the secret message says. *(Pick up piece of paper)* I can't see what it says.

- Let's see if N's (name of volunteer) friend/family member can guess what has been written on this piece of paper.....
- Would you please come and join us. *(Volunteer's friend/family member joins you and you say)*

Can you guess what this secret message says about you? *(Person guesses)*

- Would you like to see if you are right? *(Shine the UV light onto the message to bring it to light and read it out so that everyone can hear it)*

¹ You can purchase an invisible ink pen with inbuilt UV light or UV torch cheaply from Amazon at www.amazon.co.uk by putting, “Secret message pen” into the search bar.

How do you feel about that message? *(Person responds)*

- Thank you for your help. Would you both like to go and sit down again?

We could see the invisible message when the UV light was shone upon it couldn't we?

- Before the light was shone upon it, only the author knew what the message said.
- We could have guessed what the message said, but it would have been easy to get it wrong.

If it is hard to guess what an invisible message says, it would be even harder for us to get to know someone who is invisible wouldn't it?

- We could guess what they are really like, but we could be wrong couldn't we?

In the beginning of time Jesus, God's Son, was living with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

- He was invisible.....no-one could see Him.....and yet He was very real.

Then two thousand years ago something very wonderful happened.

- The invisible God became visible.
- Would someone like to come and shine the UV light onto my piece of paper and see what you can see? *(Person shines light onto the picture of the baby on the 1st piece of A5 paper)*

It is a picture of a baby isn't it?

- Jesus, God's Son became flesh, became human, and came to earth as a baby boy.
- Isn't that amazing?
- Jesus lived among us and people were able to see what God is really like as they looked at Jesus, rather than guessing what He is like.

They discovered that Jesus is kind and very loving,

- humble and faithful,
- slow to anger,
- powerful and strong amongst other things.

Now St John tells us in His Gospel that even though Jesus lived amongst people for over thirty years and did and said many wonderful things, many people were unwilling to see that He was God's Son.

- But to those people who did want to know Jesus, and who believed that He was who He said He was, Jesus gave them the wonderful gift of becoming children of God.

Today you and I cannot see Jesus with our physical eyes even though He is very much alive, because once again He is living with God the Father,

- however we do have the Bible that tells us all about the things that Jesus did and said when He lived on earth.

As we look at Jesus, the image of the invisible God, we can see what God is really like,

- and as we choose to believe that Jesus is who He said He is we too are given the amazing right to become children of God.

Appendix 1 – Outline of Baby Jesus for A5 sheet 1

