Short Thought

## Introduction

* We need a little light in our lives this Christmas. Life has been difficult for lots of people these last few years. Whatever else is going on in our lives, the good or the bad, it’s important to take time to remind ourselves that the light is there.
* Here at *[Add the name of your corps]* we try to help people remember the light in their lives. We want people to know that life can always be better. *[Include a story from a programme or group at your corps].*
* The Bible tells us that joy comes in the morning. Even when we are in the night times, when we are battling with darkness, the dawn will still come. Light is going to come again.
* Jesus can show us a way through the darkness into the light. It begins with knowing that it is there. There is light. There is a way that will bring change. There is hope for us.

## Challenge

* Mary did not know what her life would lead to. When confronted with pregnancy and prophecy, she could have responded with fear. How could she ever possibly have felt anything except that her life was ruined? Yet she responded with faith. There was light, growing inside of her, which led her to sing that God would change the world for the better.
* She did not know what that would look like, but she trusted God that it would be good in the end. That’s what faith is. It’s not about believing in ideas; it’s about believing in a relationship. That God loves us and there is hope for our future.
* Like Mary, we don’t know what’s going to happen next, but we can trust there will be a new sunrise. The light has come, the light will come again.

## Application/Response

* If you want to know how to find this light, there is a really simple way. Jesus teaches us that the way to know his light is to love our neighbour as ourselves, and to learn to love God with all that we are.
* When you learn to love your neighbour, you learn to love yourself as well. The more we spend time with each other, the more the light within us starts to blossom and bloom into life. When we are patient and kind, forgiving and gentle, we grow the light of Jesus within us and shine with that light.
* Then we will feel the touch of Jesus in our life and know Jesus in our heart. Then we know that there will be a sunrise in the morning and that light, life and love will be ours everlasting.
* If you want to know this light in your life, there is a moment for prayer now while we sing/listen/watch this song. [Encourage people to respond in whatever way is suitable for the setting in which you are sharing this thought. Share with those gathered that the light of Jesus and the hope he brings in our life each new morning is available to them.]