

*Exploring Why*

# Light



**Extended Version**

*Exploring Why*

# Light

Tania ap Siôn and Leslie J Francis  
Illustrated by Phillip Vernon



**Bear Lands Publishing**

## About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I Spy' to help them get to know these places better. In the *Exploring Why* series Aled and Siân are curious to find out why some of the things around them are important to their Christian, Jewish and Muslim friends.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at [hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources](http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources) and [st-marys-centre.org.uk](http://st-marys-centre.org.uk)

The storybooks and activities are devised for 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

Published 2016 by Bear Lands Publishing, The St Mary's Centre, Llys Onnen, Abergwyngregyn, Gwynedd, LL33 0LD, Wales.

Copyright © Tania ap Siôn and Leslie J Francis (text), Phillip Vernon (illustrations).

Tania ap Siôn, Leslie J Francis, and Phillip Vernon have asserted their right under the Copyright, Design and Patents Act, 1988, to be identified as authors of this Work.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without full acknowledgement of Bear Lands Publishing and Copyright holders.

First published 2016.

Sponsored by the Welsh Government.

## Titles in the *Exploring Why* series are:

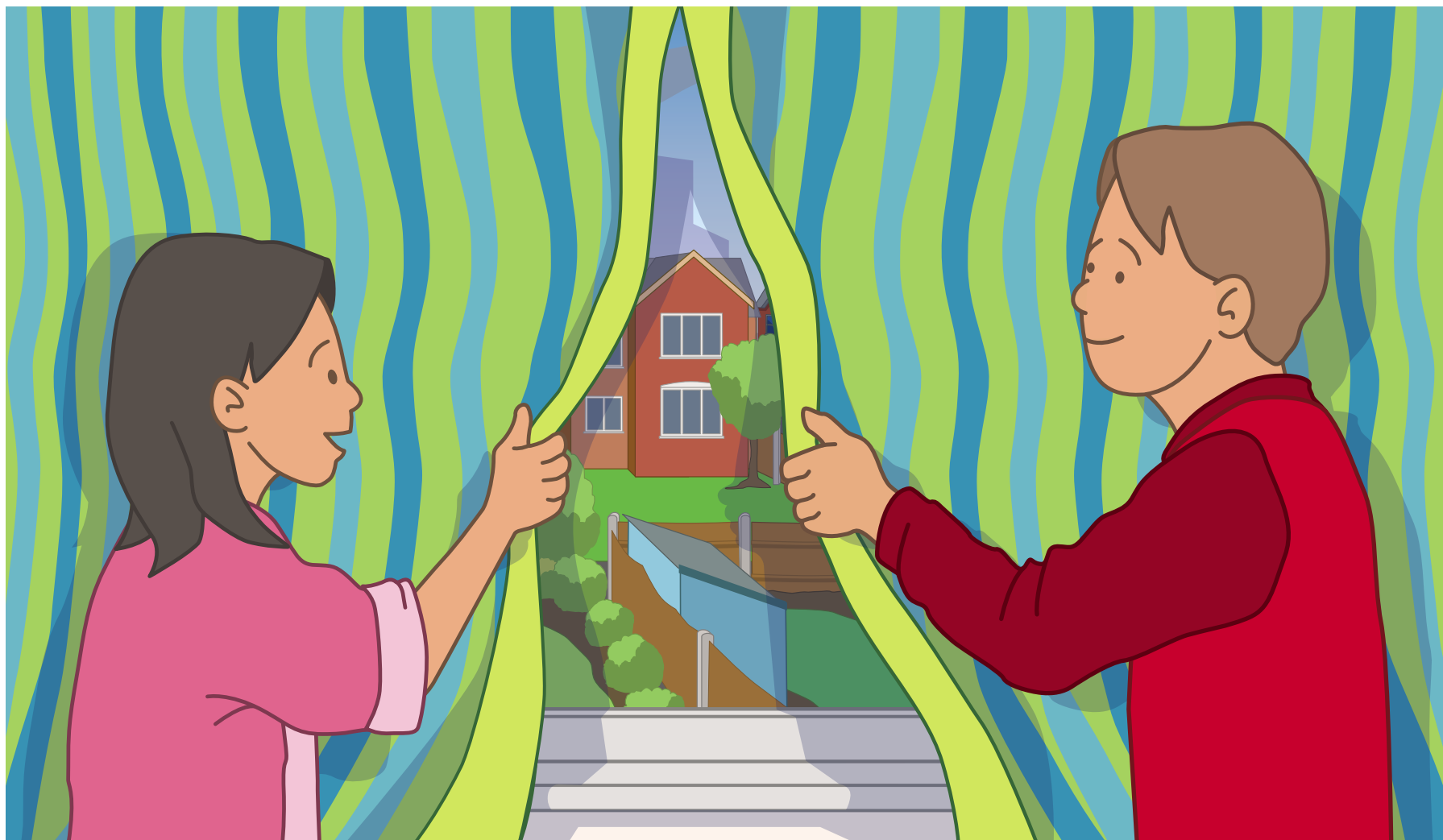
Bread  
Cross  
Light  
Menorah  
Veil  
Water  
Symbols of Faith





Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I Spy' to help them get to know these places better. Today, they spotted the bright light of

the bedside lamp, and they set out to discover how many other forms of light they could find and where they could find them.



Aled and Siân bounced over the bed and ran towards the bedroom window. They stopped to look up at the closed curtains with their long green

and blue stripes. Then one by one they tugged them open. They gazed at white morning light, clear and bright as it flooded into the room.



There outside the window they saw the lawns and the garden sheds, the aerials and the rooftops, the cars and the motorbikes. "I spy a light," shouted

Siân. She pointed up to the sky above. Now almost free from the cover of a swift grey cloud, the sun beamed down on the land below.



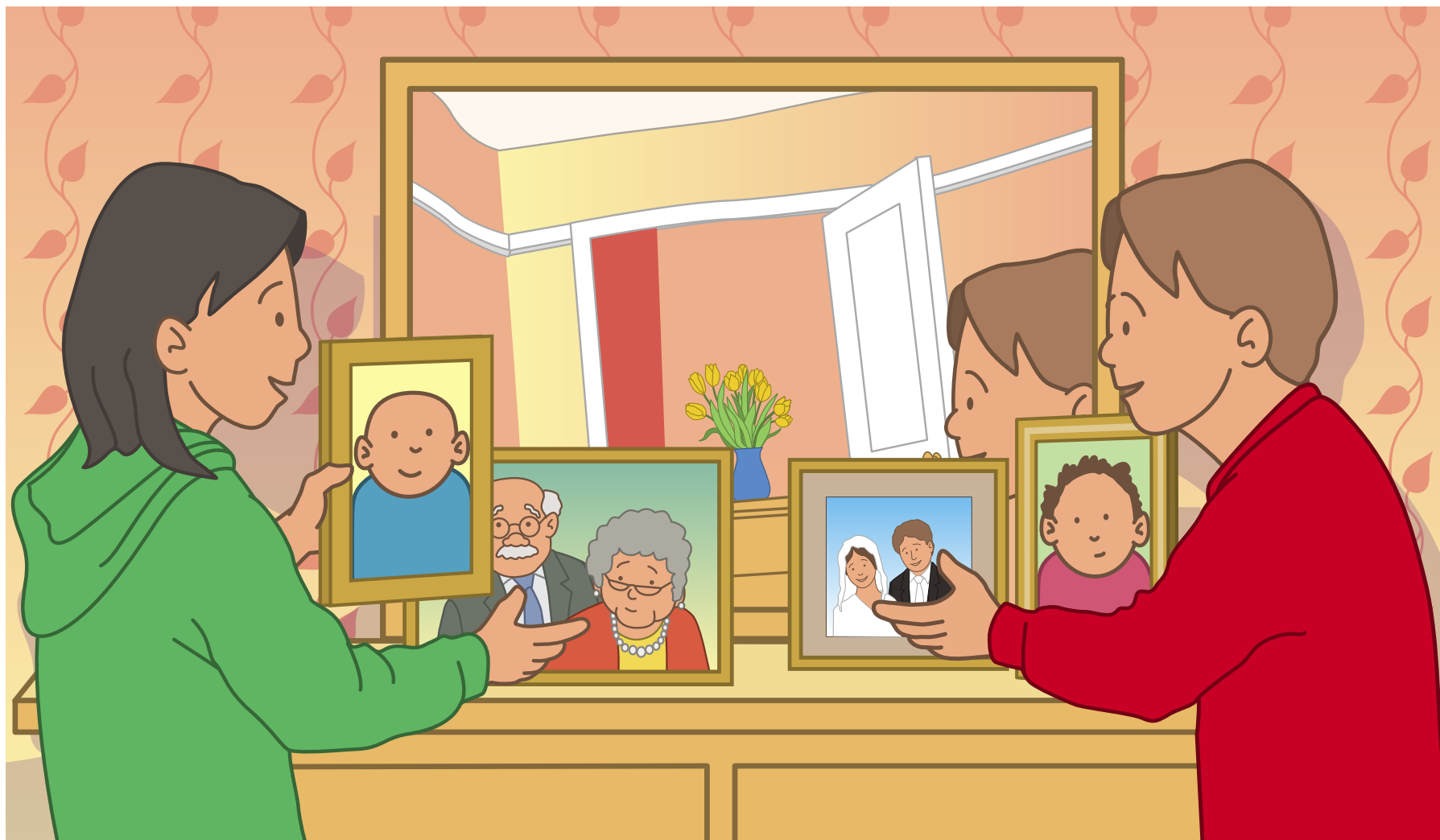
Aled and Siân noticed that the attic door was open. Aled led the way forward, carefully climbing the steep steps. When they reached the top, they peered through the shadows and saw their mother

packing clothes for the charity shop. She held up a black evening dress with sequins and a pair of khaki shorts.



There in the attic they saw the low rafters and the hanging cobwebs, the spiders and the prey, the cots and the tennis rackets. "I spy a light," shouted

Aled. He pointed to the light bulb switched on by their mother. It was bare and bold, casting its stark yellow light.



Leaving the attic, Aled and Siân set out to explore the bedrooms. Going into their parent's bedroom they walked to the dressing table and saw the

photographs. They walked to the spare room and smelt the flowers in the vase. They walked to their own bedroom and touched the boxes full of toys.



There in the boxes they found the jigsaw puzzles and the balls, the dolls and the teddies, the binoculars and the board games. "I spy a light,"

shouted Siân. She pointed to the torch hidden beneath one of the beds. It was small and blue with an uncertain flickering light.



Aled and Siân picked up the football and went outside to play. They walked past the post box, past the corner shop, and past the band hall. Then they came to the park. As Aled and Siân kicked the

football across the grass, past the swings and climbing frames, they heard the deep growl of thunder.



Aled and Siân looked up and saw the black clouds rolling in above their heads. There the squawking seagulls sang their warning cry as a brilliant flash cut across the sky. “I spy a light,” shouted Aled. He

pointed toward the lightning bolt. It was jagged and powerful, streaking downward to meet the trees.



Aled and Siân left the park to escape the rain. They ran past the park gates, past the war memorial, and past the garage. Then they came to the house

where their friends Nathan and Rachel live. They rang the doorbell and waited for their friends to come to the door.



Inside their house Nathan and Rachel's mother was busy in the dining room, preparing the table for their evening meal. "These are two candles," she said, "ready to begin Shabbat, the day of rest, in

our home." "I wonder why light is so important for Shabbat?" said Aled and Siân as they watched Nathan and Rachel's mother so busy at work.



That Friday afternoon Aled and Siân helped their friends to get ready for their special day of the week. They continued to puzzle about why light was so important for Shabbat. When night approached,

Nathan and Rachel's mother lit and blessed the candles so that Shabbat, the day of rest, was welcomed in.



On the table Aled and Siân found everything set out just like it is for the Shabbat Friday meal. There set out on the white table cloth they saw the two braided loaves and the cloth cover. They saw the

cup of wine and the fresh flowers. They saw the salt and the two candles. "I wonder why light is so important for Shabbat?" said Siân to Aled.



Aled and Siân watched as Nathan and Rachel's father blessed his son and daughter. They watched as he blessed the bread and the wine. They joined

in the greeting of 'Shabbat Shalom'. Over dinner, Nathan and Rachel told Aled and Siân two stories to help them discover the answer to their question.



Nathan and Rachel opened a copy of the Torah and found the book of Genesis, chapter one. There they read how God created the heavens and the earth.

Separating the light from the darkness, God created light on the very first day. The light was called 'day' and the darkness was called 'night'.



Aled and Siân heard how God gave shape to the world by making the sky, the seas and the land. They heard how God filled these places with the

plants and the trees, the sun and the moon, the fish and the birds. Then on the sixth day God created people, man and woman.



When this work was finished, God looked at all that had been made, and saw that it was very good. So, on the seventh day God rested and the day was

blessed, making it holy. That day was called Shabbat and was set apart from the other six days of the week.



Nathan and Rachel searched their copy of the Torah and found the book of Exodus. There they read how God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The people waiting below saw the glory

of God burn like fire on the mountain top. Then when Moses descended, his face was radiant too because God had been with him.



Aled and Siân heard how God gave the fourth commandment, “Remember Shabbat by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work,

but the seventh day is Shabbat to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work.”



Nathan and Rachel said that on Shabbat they stop their busy lives and remember. They remember God's work in creation and share in God's day of rest. They remember God's relationship with Moses

and share in keeping the commandments. They give thanks to God for all these things, and for the special time together as a family.



After the meal had finished, Aled and Siân enjoyed singing songs with Nathan and Rachel's family. They listened eagerly as more Jewish stories were retold, and they laughed and talked until it was

time to go home. "Tomorrow at dusk," said Nathan and Rachel, "we also light a special candle to say goodbye to Shabbat!"



Before going to sleep, Aled and Siân looked out of their bedroom window at the pale world below them. In the quiet night as the moon and the stars

shone out, Aled and Siân whispered together, "Now we know why light is so important for Shabbat!"

Aled and Siân are playing 'I Spy' and today they are looking for 'Light'. They find light in all kinds of places around where they live. When Aled and Siân visit their friends, Nathan and Rachel, they start asking an important question – “I wonder why light is so important for Shabbat?” With the help of Nathan and Rachel, Aled and Siân begin to find some answers.



**Bear Lands Publishing**