

In my daughter's earliest days, I often named the things she encountered for her. I'd identify objects or allow her to touch something unfamiliar and say the word for her, bringing understanding—and vocabulary—to the vast world she was exploring. Though my husband and I might naturally have expected (or hoped) her first word would be Mama or Daddy, she surprised us with an entirely different first word: her small mouth murmured *light* one day—a sweet, mispronounced echo of the word *light* I'd just shared with her.

Light is one of God's first words recorded for us in the Bible. As the Spirit of God hovered over a dark, formless, and empty Earth, God introduced light into His creation, saying, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). He said the light was good, which the rest of Scripture bears out: the psalmist explains that God's words illuminate our understanding (Psalm 119:130), and Jesus refers to Himself as "the light of the world," the giver of the light of life (John 8:12).

God's first utterance in the work of creation was to give light. That wasn't because He needed light to do His work; no, the light was for us. Light enables us to see Him and identify His fingerprints on the creation around us, discern what is good from what is not, and follow Jesus one step at a time in this vast world.