

THE
ELECTRIC
LIFE AND LIGHT
COMPANY

JESUS IS THE LIFE AND LIGHT
OF THE WORLD

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

BY ELLEN S. BUNNELL

101 WAYS TO PRAISE A CHILD

• Wow • Way To Go • Super • You're Special • Outstanding • Excellent • Great • Good • Neat • Well Done • Remarkable • I Knew You Could Do It • I'm Proud Of You • Fantastic • Superstar • Nice Work • Looking Good • You're On Top Of It • Beautiful • Now You're Flying • You're Catching On • Now You've Got It • You're Incredible • Bravo • You're Fantastic • Hurray For You • You're On Target • You're On Your Way • How Nice • How Smart • Good Job • That's Incredible • Hot Dog • Dynamite • You're Beautiful • You're Unique • Nothing Can Stop You Now • Good For You • I Like You • You're Darling • You're A Winner • Remarkable Job • Beautiful Work • Spectacular • You're Spectacular • You're Precious • Great Discovery • You've Discovered The Secret • You Figured It Out • Fantastic Job • Hip, Hip Hurray • Bingo • Magnificent • Marvelous • Terrific • You're Important • Phenomenal • You're Sensational • Super Work • Creative Job • Super Job • Fantastic Job • Exceptional Performance • You're A Real Trooper • You Are Responsible • You Are Exciting • You Learned It Right • What An Imagination • What A Good Listener • You Are Fun • You're Growing Up • You Tried Hard • You Care • Beautiful Sharing • Outstanding Performance • You're A Good Friend • I Trust You • You're Important • You Mean A Lot To Me • You Make Me Happy • You Belong • You've Got A Friend • You Make Me Laugh • You Brighten My Day • I Respect You • You Mean The World To Me • That's Correct • You're A Joy • You're A Treasure • You're Wonderful • You're Perfect • Awesome • A+ Job • You're A-OK-My Buddy • You Made My Day • That's The Best • A Big Hug • A Big Kiss • Say I Love You! • Remember, A Smile Is Worth 1000 Words!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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THIS PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OFFICE OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND ERIE COUNTY OFFICE OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE THE DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ANALYSES, INTERPRETATIONS OR CONCLUSIONS HEREIN.

DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR

THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY is a program to be used as a diversion from normal curriculum. The learning center approach is a motivation to attend Sunday School during traditionally low attendance times.

This exciting 13 week program is appropriate for children kindergarten through grade 6. There are options provided to challenge the older student. Older students may be able to work on more complicated projects but will not have much time. Decide which activities are appropriate for your students. The toddler-preschool teachers should be given an opportunity to preview the program. They may want to adapt it to their younger student.

CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING AN ENTHUSIASTIC TEACHING STAFF Choose teachers who love to work creatively with students. Call upon volunteers who are not normally teaching on a week to week basis. Meet one time with this staff to plan the quarter. If everyone makes an effort to attend, this meeting should be the only planning session required.

PREPARE THE MATERIAL BEFORE APPROACHING THE STAFF. Read the weekly lesson plans. Copy as many lesson plans as needed for your staff. Assign areas in the building for learning center stations. Understand the learning center teaching method. Communicate to the staff what will be expected.

ASSIGN PARTS OF THE WEEKLY PROGRAM TO EACH TEACHER. The teachers may rotate learning center assignments or stay in the same learning center throughout the program. Use the schedule sheets to help you remember the assignments. Be sure each teacher knows when and where they will be needed. Telephone them to be sure they remember.

ASSIGN EXTRA HELPERS. Use people who do not ordinarily teach. Youth or senior citizens are wonderful for the students. These people will be important to be sure students travel quickly and safely from place to place. They will also help complete crafts within the allotted time period.

NURSERY AND TODDLER TEACHERS. Keep the youngest students in their rooms. The material may be adjusted accordingly for the very young student. Little ones are more comfortable in a safe environment. Their learning centers may be set up in the corners of their classroom.

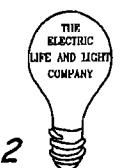
YOUR JOB AS DIRECTOR IS TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF. RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF. ASSIGN TASKS TO INDIVIDUALS AND THEN TRUST THEM TO COMPLETE THE TASKS.

PLAN WELL. MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO KNOW WHAT WILL BE OCCURRING EACH SUNDAY IN EACH LEARNING CENTER BE SURE ALL CRAFT SUPPLIES, VISUAL AIDS, MOVIES, SNACKS, GAMES AND MUSIC ARE READY.

LOOK THROUGH THE LESSON PLANS TO SEE WHAT SUPPLIES WILL BE NEEDED. THERE ARE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS GIVEN WHICH REQUIRE AN ORDER BE SENT TO S&S ARTS AND CRAFTS, COLCHESTER, CONN. DECIDE WHICH KITS YOU WANT TO PURCHASE AND SEND ONE ORDER FOR THE QUARTER E KITS COME COMPLETE AND ARE AN EASY WAY TO PREPARE

ALLOW YOUR STAFF THE FREEDOM TO BE CREATIVE WITHIN THE THEME OF THE QUARTER. IF THEY DISCOVER A BETTER STORY CRAFT OR GAME, LET THEM TRY IT.

KEEP IT SIMPLE. THE LESSON PLANS IN THIS CURRICULUM ARE STRAIGHT FORWARD AND EASY TO COMPLETE ANY CHRISTIAN MOM OR DAD SHOULD BE ABLE TO PREPARE FOR A LEARNING CENTER IN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME.



DIRECTOR'S LIST OF THINGS TO DO

___ READ THE CURRICULUM PLANS

___ MAKE LESSON PLAN COPIES FOR TEACHING STAFF.

___ ANNOUNCE THE NEED FOR STAFF. ASK PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

___ ASSIGN BUILDING LOCATIONS FOR EACH LEARNING CENTER

___ MEET WITH THE STAFF. COMPLETE SCHEDULE SHEETS WITH THE STAFF. PLAN A DAY TO DECORATE THE LEARNING CENTERS. GIVE COPIES OF LESSON PLANS TO THOSE WHO WILL BE teaching.

___ SEND CRAFT ORDER.

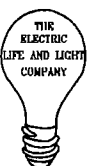
___ PUBLICIZE IN THE CHURCH NEXT WEEKLY WORSHIP FOLDER, ANNOUNCEMENT TIME TO MOVE TO THE NEXT LEARNING CENTER. THIS IS IMPORTANT! BE ON TIME AND BE STRICT.

___ TELEPHONE STAFF MEMBERS BEFORE EACH SUNDAY TO BE SURE ALL SUPPLIES ARE READY. REMIND THEM TO COME!

___ LEAD THE OPENING LEARNING CENTER EACH WEEK.

___ BE THE TIMEKEEPER RING A BELL, BLOW A WHISTLE OR TRUMPET WHEN IT IS TIME TO MOVE TO THE NEXT LEARNING CENTER, THIS IS IMPORTANT! BE ON TIME AND BE STRICT.

___ PLAN THE PARTY WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP WITH FOOD AND ACTIVITIES.



USING LEARNING CENTERS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

The LEARNING CENTERS in this curriculum are really "controlled" LEARNING CENTERS. The students will travel in a group and will stay in a particular LEARNING CENTER for a specific time period.

- 1. Divide the total group into three basic groups.** The groups will be built on basic age groupings but some overlapping is fine. If you have a large group of students (100 or more), plan two or more of the same learning center and increase your staff as needed.
- 2. Games, stories, puppets, making story tapes, drawing pictures, playing with clay and singing all lead a child into deeper understanding of scriptural truths.**
- 3. Separate corners of one large room may be set up for individual learning centers.** Separate classrooms lend themselves to individual learning centers. Move to other areas of the church if space and time allow. Weather permitting, plan some learning centers outdoors in the yard or parking lot.
- 4. Each learning center should be decorated.** Use lots of light and color. Print the name of the learning center in large letters.
- 5. Depending upon the length of Sunday School, time in each learning center will be 12-15 minutes.** The activities must be quick, exciting and hard hitting. When it is time to move, everyone must move quickly.
- 6. Noise and chatter is inevitable during the move but teacher and helpers must work to get students involved in the next center's activity right away.**
- 7. Prepare one activity for each center on the topic for the week.** The activity may be slightly different according to the age group involved. (See the lesson Plan for each week's activity ideas.)
- 8. Guide the group at your center through the activity as smoothly as possible.** It is better to teach one idea well than to crowd too much into the short time allotted.
- 9. If you find yourself with extra time, review the story with questions, spend time on the memory verse, repeat the game or activity.** Talk to the students and get to know them before they leave your learning center area.



DECORATE!

Have a wonderful time with the theme, THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY. The students and teachers will have a lot of fun during the Sunday

School hour if the area is bright with color and light.

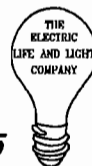
Decorate with great imagination. Ask everyone to help in this task.

HERE ARE SOME DECORATING IDEAS TO REPRESENT LIGHT:

- 1. String Christmas lights (white or colored) all over the area.** Overwhelm the students with the twinkling lights. Light the doorways, the windows, the walls. Plug in the lights before students arrive each week.
- 2. Someone may have a rotating Christmas tree light used on white trees several years ago.** These slow rotations light an area in different colors. This type of light would be fun to turn on during the opening music time.
- 3. Strobe lights.** Strobes are fun because they flash brightly in quick bursts. Light a hallway with a strobe so that students must walk through a darkened area seeing their clothing lit up as they travel.
- 4. Glitter.** Make light shapes on cardboard and cover in glitter before attaching to the wall or bulletin board. Shapes that are fun to display are stars (lots of glitter), the sun, electric light bulbs, memory verse posters surrounded with bright glitter, candlelight and lanterns.
- 5. Spotlights.** Ask church folks to lend spotlights from their homes. Some desk lamps work well because the light is directed to one area. Light the learning centers with these "spots". Light doorways and stairs to point the way to Sunday School.
- 6. Flashlights.** Borrow or purchase inexpensive flashlights to hang from the ceiling. Line up a row of flashlights on the piano pointed to the ceiling while students sing.

MORE COLORFUL DECORATIONS:

- 1. Use colorful crepe paper streamers in every area.** Hang the streamers from the ceiling and blow a small fan gently to move the streamers.
- 2. Make a huge bulletin board to announce to the church that a great**



Sunday School quarter is coming and is in progress. See the instruction sheet for bulletin board details.

- 3. Make huge suns to place around the area. Sprinkle liberally with glitter.**
- 4. Draw huge electric light bulbs, sprinkle with glitter and hang all over the area.**
- 5. Purchase colorful balloons. If using latex balloons, remember they will lose air over a period of time. Do not float them. Use balloon sticks and be prepared to replace them every once in awhile. Mylar balloons will float for many weeks.**

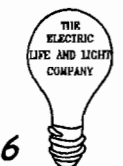
Balloons may be strung on fishing line or kite string and attached to the ceiling or around doorways.

PEOPLE DECORATIONS:

- 1. Specialty stores and catalogs offer battery operated bow ties, visors, headbands or suspenders that light.** These items are fun for the teachers to wear and fun for the students to see. One catalog that carries these items: ORIENTAL TRADING COMPANY, OMAHA, NEBRASKA. Phone (402)331-5511 or Mail PO Box 3407, Omaha, NE 68103 to receive a free catalog.
- 2. Head bobbers.** These neat little decorations are easy to put on each week and are fun to wear. The bobbers come in several shapes and are covered in colored glitter. ORIENTAL TRADING COMPANY offers a variety of colors at an inexpensive price.

WHEN DECORATING FOR THIS PROGRAM, ASK ALL STAFF TO USE THEIR IMAGINATIONS TO HELP. MAKE IT A TEAM EFFORT.

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE STINGY WITH COLOR OR SIZE EVERYTHING SHOULD BE OVERSIZED AND COLORFUL. OVERDO IT!



PUBLICIZE,..PUBLICIZE,.. PUBLICIZE!

The more excited your church and community become in this new and different approach to Sunday School the more your children will benefit from the program.

ADVERTISE IN THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER: Place short, catchy announcements in the newsletter for a month or two before the program begins. Give just enough information to intrigue the reader. Do not explain everything in detail.

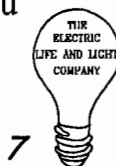
ZAP! HEY KIDS ... YOU'RE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY. COME EVERY SUNDAY MORNING THIS SUMMER AND BE "SHOCKED" BY WHAT YOU SEE-- "LIT UP" WITH FUN--"ELECTRIFIED " WITH EXCITEMENT! DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO "BLOW A FUSE" IN CHURCH. FIRST COMPANY MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, JUNE 10 A.M. 9:30 A.M. ZAP!

ANNOUNCE THE PROGRAM WITH FLYER INSERTS IN THE WEEKLY **CHURCH BULLETIN**. The weekly bulletin reaches the regular attendees. Use it to explain what will be happening in the Sunday School. Ask for their support.

A sample short bulletin announcement:

THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY INVITES EVERYONE KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 6 TO THE MOST FUN ANY KID HAS A RIGHT TO HAVE AT CHURCH. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT WILL BECOME A SUPER PLACE TO BE THIS SUMMER. TRAVEL THROUGH THE LEARNING CENTERS EACH SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M. TO HEAR STORIES, PLAY GAMES AND MAKE CRAFTS DESIGNED TO BUILD BRIGHTER CHRISTIANS. DON'T MISS THE FUN AND ... BRING A FRIEND.

POSTERS. Make large posters to place in strategic areas of the church. If you want to attract community involvement, place them in local stores with tear off



reminders of place, dates, times.

POSTCARDS. Send postcards to the homes of students on file. This personal touch is an extra dose of caring that often works wonders.

BALLOON-A-GRAMS. Give every Sunday School student a blown up balloon with a card attached the week before the program will begin. Announce the time, place and dates of the program and invite the student to "join the Company

TELEPHONE. Call all potential students in the 2-3 days prior to the beginning of the program. It is a great reminder at the last minute. "We're doing something fun and special. We don't want you to miss it!"

LOCAL NEWSPAPER. The press is always looking for a new angle on an old tradition. Take the initiative and write an informative article. Send a black and white glossy photo with each name clearly marked on the back of the photo. If you want the photo returned, send it in a stamped, self addressed envelope. (TIP: NEWSPAPERS SEEM MORE LIKELY TO PRINT YOUR FEATURE IF IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A CLEAR PHOTO.)

PHOTOGRAPHY. Take pictures of the students at the learning centers. Display the pictures on the bulletin boards and classrooms of the church. Set up a display in the church entry so worshipers can see it as they enter the building each Sunday.

VIDEOTAPE THE EVENT. Show the tape later in the quarter. Encourage people of the church to bring their cameras and walk through the area taking pictures. It will spark more interest at the beginning when they know there will be special things to see.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE, INCLUDE THE TEEN AND ADULT CLASSES IN SPECIAL ACTIVITIES. IF YOU PLAN TO SHOW A VIDEOTAPE DURING ONE OF THE LEARNING CENTERS, ASK THESE CLASSES TO COME. MAKE IT AN ALL CHURCH CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND LIGHT.

IT'S A PARTY!

Plan a wonderful party for the last Sunday of the quarter. The ideas suggested should spark your imagination. If your staff wants another type of celebration, enter the planning session with enthusiasm.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: The fun part of a program like this is to free up the normal Sunday School schedule to do some different activities. If desired, create some special Sunday School celebrations to intersperse throughout the quarter.

WHY BOTHER WITH THIS? Our children are bombarded on every side with activities and events that pull them from church. Everything seems like fun--except Sunday School! Make students feel that Sunday School and church is THE place to be on Sunday morning. Take care of their childlike need for fun and excitement and they will reward you with their attendance and attention during more serious discussion times.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR HAVING FUN DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR:

1. **Serve a huge breakfast to all students.** Set the tables with lots of candlelight or flash light. Float helium balloons as table centerpieces. Make scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon or ham, fruit salad, toast and orange juice. Play happy Christian music in the background.

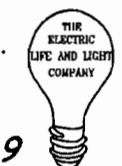
Begin the Sunday School hour with 15-20 minutes of singing and announcements. If desired, play a few simple table games when breakfast is over. Give small prizes to game winners. Be sure everyone goes home with a small gift from the Sunday School.

OPTION: Invite all teen and adult classes to participate.

2. **Invite a Christian puppet group, music group, clowning organization or speaker to come for one week.** Begin the hour with normal opening activities before the "special" begins.

3. **MORNING AT THE MOVIES:** Show a videotape or full length film to the classes. Be sure it is appropriate for the age groups involved. Try not to choose a film that is outdated.

4. **CARNIVAL DAY:** Set up a series of carnival games that the students will enjoy playing.



Ask teachers to organize one game, bring and set up in an assigned area and run the game.

SOME GREAT GAMES THAT STUDENTS WILL ENJOY:

UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE: Hang a clothesline between two chairs. Lay individual words on the floor to several well known Bible verses and their references. The students may team up to unscramble one verse and hang it in the proper order with clothespins on the line.

FISHING FOR DISCIPLES: Fill a tub with water. Float small boats in the water. Each boat must have a flag stating the name of one disciple and a magnet strip. Each student fishes for boats using a dowel rod, string and magnet strip tied to the end. Teachers and other students may blow the boats around the water to make fishing more difficult.

HOP, SKIP AND BALANCE: Set up a floor hopscotch layout using paper pieces. Students must balance a peanut on a spoon as they hop their way through the layout. If they drop the peanut, they must begin again.

TOSS THE COINS: Make a large cardboard fish with open mouth. Remind students of the story of Peter finding the coin to pay taxes in the mouth of the fish as Jesus predicted. (See Matthew 17:24-27). The students must step behind the line (teacher decides distance) and toss coins into the mouth of the fish. Give each player 5 coins.

MUSICAL CHAIRS: Play the traditional game of musical chairs using a tape recording of Christian music. When the music stops, students must find a seat. Those left standing leave the game. As chairs are removed one at a time the last student finding a seat wins.

PIN THE HALO ON THE ANGEL: Draw the face of an angel on posterboard. Make lots of paper halos. Blindfold the students one at a time, spin them three times and ask them to tape their halo as close to the top of the angel's head as possible. Be sure their names are on the halos.

AIM FOR JESUS: Set up a table filled with paper airplanes. (Some older students may want to make their own). Each student who plays the game prints his name on his plane. At a predetermined distance is a paper target taped to the floor with the word JESUS printed in large letters. The very center of the game is the first "S" in JESUS. Students must stand behind the line and fly their airplane as close to the target as possible. Award a small prize for the closest plane of every 5 flown toward the target. Let the students play in groups of 5 as often as they want.

THERE ARE OTHER SIMPLE GAMES YOU MAY WANT TO PLAY. DECIDE WHICH GAMES YOU WILL USE AND PREPARE THE WEEK BEFORE, THERE WILL BE NO LEARNING CENTERS DURING CARNIVAL WEEK.

BE GENEROUS WITH SMALL PRIZES. GIVE EACH GAME LEADER A GENEROUS SUPPLY OF TINY TOYS, HERSHEY KISSES, JELLY BEANS, M&M's, CANDY SMARTIES, ETC. TO AWARD. GIVE EACH STUDENT A SMALL BAG FOR COLLECTING THEIR GOODIES.

End the Carnival Day with a fun snack and drink for all classes.



THE BRIGHT LIGHT OPENING

Gather the students and staff for a cheerful welcome, announcements, singing and organizing the learning center groups.

Decorate the area with bright lights. Use spotlights, flashlights, balloons and crepe paper streamers. Be sure to decorate the piano.

Make all appropriate announcements during the opening. Arrange the students in their learning center groups.

MUSIC IDEAS:

Sing some familiar Sunday School songs to begin the program.

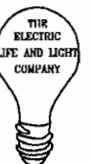
Sing songs that fit the theme. As the weeks proceed, encourage the students to memorize the words to the songs. Choose songs about light and life. Some fun song suggestions:

"This Little Light of Mine"
Songs from **Sing A Song of
Scripture**, Lillenas Publishing Co.:
"Sing And Celebrate", page 38.
"This Is the Day", page 39.
"I Will Offer You Praise", page 41.
"No Mountain High Enough", page
128.
"Behold, What Manner of Love",
page 130.
"Right Now", page 142.

"Into My Heart", page 142.
Songs from **Pick a Pack of Praise**,
Lillenas Publishing Co.:
"Abundawonderful" Life in Jesus",
page 2.
"Yes, Lord, Yes", page 4.
"Let's Talk About Jesus", page 10.
"I'm Gonna I-Hide God's Word
Inside My Heart", page 21.

TO TEACH THE SONGS:

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR AND TRANSPARENCIES. Be sure your printing is large, clear and in black marker. Trace coloring book pictures in bright colors



around the song borders or in the comers.

TYPE SONG SHEETS TO PASS OUT EACH WEEK.

PRINT THE WORDS ON LARGE POSTERBOARD. Print big with wide black marker. It is frustrating to sit in the back row and not be able to see the words to a new song. Hold the posterboard steady or place on an easel.

MEMORIZE THE WORDS. It takes time to go over the songs but the words will be in the students' hearts forever.

Introduce the theme and memory verse for the morning. Spend a few minutes going over the memory verse. Print the verse on posterboard. Keep each verse displayed throughout the quarter and take time to review each one aloud.

PLUG IN STORY TIME

Decorate the learning center with blinking Christmas lights, balloons and crepe paper streamers. Print a huge sign PLUG IN STORY to place on the learning center wall or door.

Some of the Bible stories will suggest visual aids. These will be easy to find at home. Try to use the suggested aid. These provide another way of remembering the truths being taught.

WAIT FOR EVERYONE'S ATTENTION. If there are students who are discipline problems, use these students to hold the visual aid or sit next to you for extra attention.

SIT ON THE FLOOR WITH THE STUDENTS. Make the learning center casual and open for discussion. Be sure the students have input into the story. They may laugh, comment or ask questions. This is just what you are looking for. Encourage it!

THE STORIES ARE SHORT. This gives the teacher time to relax and talk with the students about the theme and even teach the memory verse. Ask questions after the story. Watch the clock! At best, there will be 12-15 minutes at the PLUG IN STORY TIME.

CONSIDER THE AGE OF EACH GROUP. You will teach several sessions to different age groups. Tailor the story to the students. Keep it simple for younger students. Use the suggested OPTIONS FOR OLDER STUDENTS to make the time more challenging for grade 4-6 students. Allow readers to volunteer to read the scripture story, role play or lead discussion when appropriate.

TEACH ENTHUSIASTICALLY! Enjoy what you are doing. The PLUG IN STORY TIME is easy to prepare. This gives you time to enjoy the students and the setting. Have fun. Get to know students individually. Be interested in the children. Listen. Encourage participation in Sunday School and church activities.

GREET ALL PARENTS CHEERFULLY. Learn their names. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet them on common ground. Parents will love you if you love their children.

PRACTICE THE STORY ALOUD. When learning the story material, practice it aloud. Do not attempt to memorize it word for word.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN. Read it from the Bible. If you are well prepared, you will be confident during the learning center time.



CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS

Decorate the CANDLEPOWER CRAFT area with twinkling Christmas lights, glowing candles (at a safe distance from students), balloons and a huge sign in the shape of a candle hung on one wall or on the learning center door.

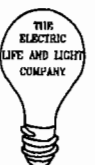
Some of the decoration for this area may come from the craft Tape the completed crafts on the walls and place on tables to be picked up during the party the last week. The attractiveness will grow as the weeks progress. Be sure names are plainly printed for identification later. Use your imagination to make this a special spot.

PLACE A LARGE TABLE IN THE CENTER OF THE LEARNING CENTER. Make it large enough to comfortably seat all the students in one group. Place chairs at even intervals around the table. Students should not be bumping into each other as they work.

PLACE THE CRAFT SUPPLIES IN THE CENTER OF THE TABLE. Have only the supplies needed for one craft on the table. A good rule to follow is to have supplies placed at intervals of every 4 students. Two students on one side use them and two students on the other side share them. Provide enough pencils, pens and scissors for each student.

IF BASIC CRAFT SUPPLIES ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY, THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO PURCHASE PLENTY OF WHITE GLUE, SCISSORS, TAPE, CRAYONS, MARKERS, PENCILS, PENS, STICKERS AND PAPER FOR USE. DO NOT TRY TO LIMP ALONG WITH OLD JUNK. LET THE STUDENTS KNOW THEY ARE IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO HAVE FIRST CLASS EQUIPMENT.

TIMING IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN THE CRAFT AREA. 12-15 minutes is the average time to seat students, create the project and prepare the students to move to the next learning center. Plan before the day arrives. Cut out as much as possible, preprint verses, separate the proper supplies. Display the craft on a nearby wall so everyone can see how it must be put



together.

A quick way of passing out projects: Before class day, gather all project pieces into plastic sandwich bags. Place one kit per student on the table before they arrive at the learning center.

HELPERS ARE A MUST. Station one helper per four students. More may be desired for younger students. The helpers will assist in placing the parts of the craft at each place before the students arrive, printing names, dabbing glue, finding just the right color, spelling hard words, fixing or replacing broken parts and keeping the area clean for the next group.

BRING A GARBAGE BAG OR BOX LARGE ENOUGH FOR EASY THROWAWAY AS THE MORNING PROGRESSES. Keep the area as clean as possible. Wet towels for wiping hands save time from visiting sinks in the restrooms.

SAVE THE JOB OF DISPLAYING ALL COMPLETED PROJECTS UNTIL THE STUDENTS HAVE LEFT FOR THE DAY. It saves time during the rush and will provide excitement the next week as students try to find their artwork on the wall. For weeks that students take their projects home, make extra samples and display them.

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS ARE DESIGNED TO BE QUICK AND SIMPLE. Each student should be able to complete their project in the allotted time. Older students are capable of completing more complicated projects but time limitations prohibit much additional challenge.

BE AN ENTHUSIASTIC CHEERLEADER AS THE STUDENTS CHATTER AND WORK. Keep them moving and try not to get frustrated. Finish any problem projects after the hour.

A TIP FOR CHURCHES WHO DO NOT WANT TAPE MARKS ON NEW CLASSROOM WALLS: Instead of taping the projects individually, place crepe paper streamers from ceiling to floor. Attach the streamer in one place at the ceiling and display paper crafts down the streamer. Heavier crafts may be displayed on tables.



LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES

Lightning Fun And Games will be a fresh experience for the staff and students. An activity-snack-game time is not usually part of the Sunday School hour. The activities in THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY are designed to be quick and thought provoking. Each activity has a purpose related to the theme of the day.

Guide the students through the activity, reminding them of the purpose and explaining what they are to learn from the activity.

DECORATE THE AREA. Make large lightning streaks from posterboard. Sprinkle with silver glitter. Print a huge sign on a bolt of lightning stating LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES.

Make enough small lightning streaks to print the first name of each student in marker in individual streaks. Hang them all over the room.

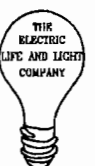
MEET IN THE LEARNING CENTER FOR BASIC INSTRUCTION . If moving to another area, go as a group. Walk quietly so other classes will not be disturbed.

SUMMER MONTHS ARE PERFECT FOR PLAYING THE GAMES OUTDOORS. It provides fresh air, a different setting and an opportunity to use skills not normally a part of the Sunday School time. Students who do not shine at the work table will enjoy this special time.

If snacks are being served, prepare them completely before class time. Make the snacks and serving dishes quick and easy.

KEEP THE TIME PERIOD IN MIND. At best you will have 12-15 minutes to get all students involved in the activity. Work quickly to gain their interest and attention.

BE ENTHUSIASTIC. Communicate to the students your joy in being with them. Laugh. Have fun. Since this is not a school situation, it is possible to be a bit lenient. Of course, don't be so lenient that students bully or hurt others.



SCHEDULING FOR THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY

There are several things that must happen each week for the morning to run smoothly. ATTENDANCE must be taken. OFFERING must be collected. must be watched carefully. Students and staff must feel as if they have had a successful experience. THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OPENING is the perfect place for much of this to happen.

ATTENDANCE: Make each student a name tag covered in clear contact paper. This name tag can serve as an attendance aid. When turned in, teachers may use them to mark the attendance books.

OR: Station helpers around the opening area to take attendance as the students arrive.

OFFERING: If separate accounting for each class is extremely important place individual class baskets on a table. Students may place their offering in their class basket.

If offering may be placed in one spot for the Sunday School treasurer, pass a basket around the group using student ushers or place a basket near the entry.

TIME: Put one person in charge of time keeping. The average time in each learning center is 12-15 minutes. Ring a large bell or blow a trumpet when it is time to move to the next learning center. Everyone must respond immediately. Assume it will take about 1-2 minutes to move to the next learning center and build that time into the daily schedule.

If more time is desired in the learning centers, time may be gained by decreasing the BRIGHT LIGHTS OPENING. Do not wait for late comers. Begin precisely on time and put latecomers in the proper learning center as they arrive.

THE STUDENTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO BASIC LEARNING CENTER GROUPS: PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN, GRADES 1-3 and GRADES 4-6 make good groups. If your Sunday School is large, adjust the groups as desired. Perhaps two or three learning centers for each age grouping will work to decrease the number of students in each learning center.



TEACHING SCHEDULE

Fill in the names of the teachers and helpers responsible for each learning center. Record telephone numbers. Call a day or two in advance of Sunday School as a reminder.

WEEK #1: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #2: THIS IS YOUR LIFE

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #3: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #4: TURN ON YOUR HEART LIGHT

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #5: STEP INTO THE SONSHINE

PLUG IN STORY TIME-
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #6: YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE

PLUG IN STORY TIME.
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #7: LIGHTEN UP!

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:



WEEK #8: LIFE WITH FATHER

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #9: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #10: KEEP IT LIGHT

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #11: LIFE AFTER LIFE

PUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #12: REFLECTIONS OF THE LIGHT

PLUG IN STORY TIME:
LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES:
CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS:

WEEK #13: CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND LIGHT--PARTY DAY!

Choose the kind of party you would like to have. See the Director's information for party ideas. Create your own party.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

FOOD:

GAMES:

SPECIAL EVENT:



RECRUITING TEACHERS

This is a good time to recruit permanent Sunday School teachers. It is a limited time commitment. Ask people of the church to help who are not usually involved. Never apologize for having to ask them. Approach potential teaching staff like this:

WE ARE HAVING A BRAND NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM NEXT QUARTER IT IS REALLY GOING TO BE DIFFERENT AND FUN. I THOUGHT OF YOU AS I WAS MAKING PLANS.

IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF YOU COULD HELP OUT FOR A FEW WEEKS. THE JOB I WAS THINKING ABOUT FOR YOU IS....

DO YOU COULD COME? GREAT! THE STAFF IS HAVING A PLANNING MEETING ON.... PLEASE COME AND GET ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR LEARNING CENTER.

Do not ask for further commitment at that time. Watch them carefully to see if they are having a successful experience. When the need arises for a substitute or new teacher or helper you will have a name tucked away for that special use. This is a great way to introduce teachers to teaching and to plan for the future of the Sunday School.

SOME PEOPLE TO THINK OF FOR TEACHING LEARNING CENTERS:

WOMEN: Women tend to be the backbone of the Sunday School teaching staff. Use each woman where she feels most comfortable. Many volunteers have children in the Sunday School.

OLDER WOMEN: Consider asking older women who have taught in the past. They usually refuse a full time class--" I've done my bit." --but some may enjoy a short term teaching experience. Learning centers are so easy to prepare that you can encourage them to help out and enjoy themselves at the same time.

MEN: For whatever reason , we forget to ask the men of the church to teach children. Ask them! The ease of the learning center preparation is a positive point when asking men. Encourage them to get to know the kids of the church.

OLDER MEN: Who can resist a "grandpa" figure. Children love them. Ask some of the older men to assist in storytelling. The men will enjoy it and the children will hang on every word they speak.

TEENS: Ask some of the older teens to help in this special project It is a wonderful way to introduce them to Sunday School teaching. Give help when needed. Team them together to give them more confidence.



DESCRIPTION OF LEARNING CENTERS

LEARNING CENTER #1: THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OPENING

The students will gather to organize for the Sunday School hour. Attendance will be taken, offering collected, announcements made and learning center groups formed. They will sing songs related to the theme.

LEARNING CENTER #2: PLUG IN STORY TIME

The small learning center group sits on the floor in a casual manner. The learning center will be decorated with twinkling lights. They hear a Bible story chosen for the day. The Bible story will sometimes be interwoven into a contemporary story using a small visual aid.

LEARNING CENTER #3: LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES

This learning center will apply Bible truth through the use of games, memorization and snack time. In order to be successful this learning center must be filled with joy and laughter.

LEARNING CENTER #4: CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS

The learning center group will complete a craft activity to compliment the theme of the day. It will be simple in order to finish in the allotted time. The crafts suggested in the lesson plans are suitable for hanging as decoration in the craft area until the end of the 13 week quarter.



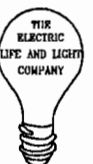
SO YOU ARE GOING TO TEACH IN THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY!

*THAT'S GREAT! THERE ARE SOME GOALS TO KEEP IN MIND AS
YOU PROGRESS THROUGH THIS 13 WEEK PROGRAM:*

1. To provide an exciting alternative to regular Sunday School routine in order to stimulate the student's imagination to greater Christian learning.
2. To teach Bible stories about the life and light Jesus spread while living on earth.
3. To allow the student to express his understanding of life and light through various art forms.
4. To aid the student's application of Bible truth by providing opportunities to relate the Bible stories of life and light to their own life.
5. To inspire the student to greater love of God through the use of songs and choruses relating to the theme of life and light.
6. To present an opportunity for each student to accept Christ as Savior.

*THE CONCLUSION OF THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY
SHOULD RESULT IN THE STUDENT BEING ABLE TO:*

1. Name 6 or 7 of the stories told during PLUG IN STORY
2. Remember at least five of the memory verses taught throughout the series.
3. Sing from memory all songs taught during the BRIGHT LIGHTS OPENING.
4. Apply Bible truth to their lives to make a happier Christian lifestyle.



TIPS FOR ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY TEA

- 1. HAVE FUN!** If you are enthusiastic about THE ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY your students will catch it and will enjoy the experience.
- 2. STAY WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT.** Begin on time. If there are only a few students and teachers present at the starting time, begin the opening anyway. The latecomers will join in as they arrive. Stress being on time.
- 3. RING A BELL WHEN IT IS TIME TO CHANGE LEARNING CENTERS.** Ring it loudly and with authority. The move must be immediate. If there are **delays**, don't become frustrated, just "hang loose".
- 4. WHEN TELLING THE STORY, SIT ON THE FLOOR OR A LOW STOOL WITH THE STUDENTS.** Be relaxed. Ask questions as you proceed to keep them involved. If there are energetic students that find it difficult to sit through the story, let them hold the visual aid or sit next to you as you tell the story.
- 5. ARRANGE THE CRAFT LEARNING CENTER TABLE SO STUDENTS MAY LEAVE THEIR SUPPLIES AT THEIR PLACE.** The table is then ready for the next class to enter. Helpers in this area keep the table free of scraps so the teacher can give instructions quickly. Display the craft of the day in a prominent place so everyone sees what is expected of them. Helpers may then tape the crafts to the walls as soon as they are completed.
- 6. THE GAME TIME CAN BE HELD IN THE LEARNING CENTER AREA OR MAY BE TAKEN OUTSIDE, WEATHER AND TIME PERMITTING.** Helpers should walk to and from the outdoor area with the students. Be sure the outdoor area is away from traffic. It must be safe.

CRAFTS FOR EVERYONE



Ages 2-4

Vigorous and uninhibited, this age group has little muscular control but nevertheless delights in drawing with big slashes of bright color. Choose jumbo-size pencils and crayons for easy manipulation. Suggested activities: painting, drawing, modeling with plasticene, fingerpainting.

Ages 5-6

Although muscles are not fully developed and children this age lack strength in their hands, enthusiasm for a variety of art materials is undaunted. But attention spans are short, and a project that cannot be completed in one sitting probably won't hold a 5 or 6-year-old's interest. Suggested activities: painting, drawing, clay modeling, collages, bead craft, puppet making, craftstick constructions, weaving, stenciling, ceramic tile craft, plaster model painting, mask making, block printing, clothespin crafts, carving styrofoam shapes with plastic knives.

Ages 7-9

Greater coordination coupled with an intense interest in the way things work make creative activities increasingly important to this age group. 7 to 9-year-olds can successfully use a variety of tools and materials, follow directions and carry out projects without constant supervision. Suggested activities: painting, drawing, carved or modeled sculpture, bead craft, puppet making, craftstick constructions, craft tissue creations, block printing, sewing, weaving, kite making, mobile and stable construction, leather crafting.

Ages 10-12

Big needles, brushes, etc. can often be replaced with adult-sized equivalents. Work becomes more detailed and involves more planning. Because 10 to 12-year-olds are becoming less spontaneous and more self-critical, they often enjoy group projects like murals which call upon everyone's talents. Suggested activities: painting, drawing, collages, ceramics, hammered metal crafts, wood crafting, jewelry making, basketry, puppet making, stenciling, batik, pen and ink sketching, print making.

Ages 13-17

Now is the age to teach advanced arts and crafts skills that can sustain an adolescent throughout his life. Suggested activities: painting, drawing, sculpture in wood, metal, clay, plaster or stone, print making, pottery, metal enameling, jewelry making, drafting and mechanical drawing, cartooning, fashion illustration, weaving, macrame, batik, wood working, leather crafting.

Special Needs Children

The special needs child can learn so much from arts and crafts activities, not the least of which is the pride in achievement. Creative endeavors develop motor skills, encourage social interaction, build self-confidence through successful mastery of the environment and encourage shape, texture and color recognition. For the teacher or counselor, arts and crafts often provide an invaluable diagnostic assessment tool. Suggested activities: painting, drawing, clay modeling, paper mache, bead craft, weaving, sand painting, wire sculpture, block printing, burnished foil relief plaques, spin art, collage, latch hook, puppet making, mobiles and stables.

Adults & Senior Citizens

For recovering hospital patients, crafts provide a pleasant diversion and alleviate, for a few hours, their anxiety about their health. Patients may also view recovery time as an opportunity to learn a new craft or try their hand at a new skill. For the disabled, arts and craft activities can exercise brain and muscle as they rebuild self-confidence. Crafts can turn the enforced leisure of the elderly into stimulating, productive, even profitable hours. Faced with the loss of meaningful occupation and companionship, crafts programs put seniors in a dynamic group situation where they can create useful products for sale, gift giving or personal use. Suggested activities: painting, drawing, ceramics, wood working, sewing, knitting, weaving, carving, embroidery, latch hook, leather craft, basketry, print making, doll and puppet making, jewelry making, enameling, macrame, stenciling.

Week # 1:

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS

PLUG IN STORY TIME

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring a picture of Jesus, one small candle for each student, matches, cardboard circles to fit over candles as finger protection. See if your church has a box of Christmas candlelight service candles and circles to borrow. (Option: one large candle). Read the story and activity thoroughly so you will know when to light and extinguish all candles.

Write the words of today's memory verse on a large paper candle. Display the verse in the learning center for the entire quarter.

OPTION: Give each student a small candle with the verse attached to take home. (SEE PATTERN SUGGESTION.)

MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 9:5 "WHILE I AM IN THE WORLD, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." Say the verse in unison until students can say it easily. Give candles or paper verse reminder to each student.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY! You are in for a real treat when you become a member of this special company. The Bible has some wonderful stories about life and light. All the stories involve Jesus Who is the Life and Light of the World. We are going to learn how to become "brighter" Christians in our own world. So...Let's get started!

(DARKEN THE ROOM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE COVER WINDOWS, TURN OUT LIGHTS, CLOSE DOORS, SEAT THE LEARNING CENTER GROUP IN A TIGHT CIRCLE ON THE FLOOR AN EASY WAY TO COVER WINDOWS IS TO MAKE CARDBOARD BOX COVERS CUT FROM APPLIANCE BOXES. CUT TO FIT THE WINDOW OPENING. IF DESIRED, DECORATE THE COVER WITH PAINT.)

I'm going to hand each of you a small candle. Hold it carefully even though it is not lit. (Stress safety and be prepared with a bucket of water in the room. Even young children will



be careful with candles but use your judgment with your specific group. If you are nervous, place one large candle in the center of the circle.)

Look around you. What do you see? Is it easy to see your friends across the circle? (LET THEM RESPOND.) You may see them a little in the dim light of the room. If it is completely dark, it is impossible to see even your hand in front of your face.

Close your eyes. Now it's even darker. Look around under your eyelids and think about what it would be like to always be in that kind of darkness. Blind people are in darkness all the time yet they have wonderful ways of learning how to live rewarding lives.

STORY/ACTIVITY TIME

People have had a hard time being good to each other and to God from the very beginning of time. In fact God was so angry at the sins of people that He told Noah to get ready for destruction. Let me read to you from Genesis 6:5-18, The Living Bible.

(Read this scripture aloud. You may have to use a small candle or flashlight if your room is extremely dark.)

Noah was kept safe. Mankind survived even the harshest anger of God. Did you notice that God was brokenhearted? He wanted all of us to benefit from God's love and wonderful gift of life. Men, however, kept short circuiting God's love and life and light.

God did not give up. After men still kept sinning, God's plan was for Jesus to become the savior of everyone. (SHOW A PICTURE OF JESUS.) It was a "brilliant, electric" plan!

LIGHT THE CIRCLE OF CANDLES OR THE LARGE CENTER CANDLE AS THE STUDENTS HOLD THEIR CANDLES CAREFULLY OR WATCH THE CENTER CANDLE, TALK ABOUT JESUS, THE LIGHT.

Just think of it! A baby boy would be born to a human mother and... by special angelic arrangement ... God. God was planning to come to earth... to walk among the very creations He loved so much and wouldn't give up to sin.

Jesus did indeed become the Life and Light to a wicked world. Did they appreciate all the trouble God went to by providing Jesus? No! They kept right on sinning and ignoring the message Jesus brought.

Matthew 4:17 LB tells us "Jesus began preaching "Turn from sin, and turn to God, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Now, tell me, which people do you think were the folks who gave Jesus a hard time and tried to blot out Ms light? Were they the families, the burglars, the murderers, the shopkeepers, the sick people, the children? No! The people who wanted to keep Jesus' message quiet



were the religious people, the priests and leaders in the synagogues.

Maybe they didn't like it when Jesus said, "Beware of false teachers who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are wolves and will tear you apart . . ." Matthew 7:15 LB. OR "Not all who sound religious are really godly people." Matthew 7:21 LB.

Jesus went on to say, "'Those who hear my instructions and ignore them are foolish, like a man who builds his house on sand. For when the rains and floods come, and storm winds beat against his house, it will fall with a mighty crash.' Matthew 7:26-27.

The crowds were amazed at Jesus' sermons, for He taught as one who had great authority, and not as their Jewish leaders." Matthew 7:28 LB.

The more Jesus spoke, the angrier the religious people got. They tried every way they could to crush out His Light. They said bad things about Him (BLOW OUT ONE OR TWO CANDLES). They tried to arrest Him. (BLOW OUT ONE MORE CANDLE) They challenged His teaching in front of many people. (BLOW OUT ONE MORE CANDLE.)

When they couldn't think of anything else to do, they killed Hm on a cross at a hill called Golgotha--Calvary. (BLOW OUT THE REMAINING CANDLES.) "There! We did it!" they said. "There will be no more Jesus to bother us and hurt our church jobs. We finally got rid of that bothersome light.

BUT --- they didn't know that God was always in control. (LIGHT A SMALL MATCH RELIGHT ONE CANDLE IN THE CIRCLE LET THE STUDENTS RELIGHT THEIR CANDLES ONE BY ONE AROUND THE CIRCLE AS YOU SAY (WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT):

The Light returned! It had never been destroyed! Jesus arose from the grave. He is indeed the Savior of the world. He is the Light that travels from person to person, from generation to generation. The Light will never go out. Jesus began before the beginning of time and will exist forever! Amen and Amen! (BLOW OUT ALL CANDLES AND PREPARE TO MOVE TO THE NEXT LEARNING CENTER.)

IF YOU ARE USING A CENTER CANDLE BLOW FROM A DISTANCE SO THAT THE FLAME WILL WIGGLE--BUT NOT BLOW OUT. YOU GET TO THE DEATH OF COST, BLOW OUT THE CANDLE AND RELIGHT IT WITH A MATCH.

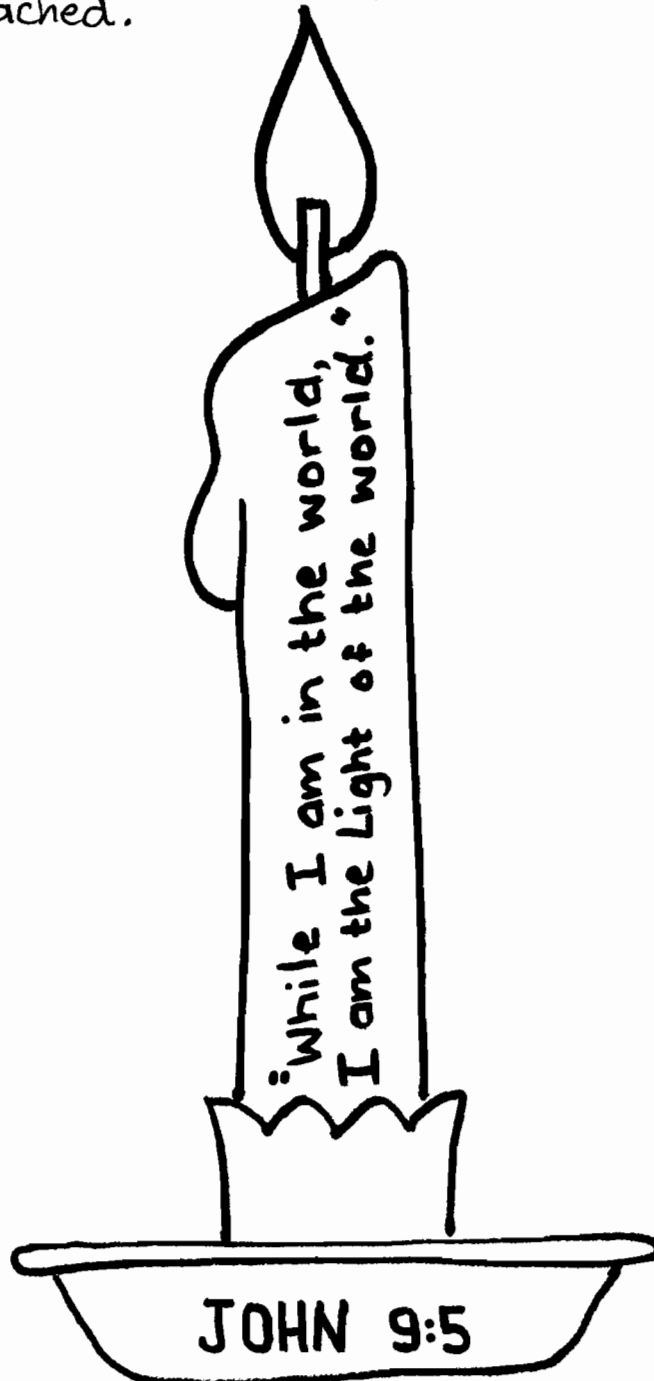
WATCH THE TIME: This learning center is a very meaningful activity when discussing the place of Christ in all our lives. Be sure to budget your minutes carefully so the activity is completed. You may want to work on the memory verse at the end of the learning center. If you run out of time, give each student a copy of the verse to take with them.



The Electric Life and Light Company
PLUG IN STORYTIME

Week #1

Make one large posterboard candle to display on the Learning Center wall. Or - give each student one paper candle using this picture as a pattern. Or - give each student a real birthday candle with the printed verse attached.



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: LIGHT VOLLEYBALL

TEACHER PREPARATION

Stretch a clothesline between two walls. Tie each end to a chair so it is approximately three feet above the floor. Bring a beach ball, sponge ball and blown up balloons for this "light" version of a fun game. If desired, divide the time so all types of balls may be tried.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Group the students in two teams. Students will sit or kneel on their side of the "net". Explain the rules. Keep the rules simple for younger students. If desired, adjust the rules for older students to make the game challenging.

RULES: Remain in your seated (kneeling) position. The first student will serve the ball across the net. The ball must be caught and tossed back across the net without touching the floor.

When using balloons, it is permissible to "bat" the balloon from person to person. No more than 3 "bats" on each side before it must go over the net to the other team.

VARIATIONS: Ask older students to use only left/right hand. The other hand must be behind their back. If there are only a few students on each team, the ball/balloon must be tossed to each team member before going across the net to the opposite team.

SCORING: When the ball/balloon touches the floor, it is considered dead. The opposite team gets one point.

WATCH THE TIME: Play until time runs out in the Learning Center. Prepare both teams to move to the next area.



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS

CANDLE POWER CRAFTS: LUMINARIAS

TEACHER PREPARATION

Each luminaria requires one 10" paper bag, about 3 inches of sand, gravel or pebbles one small plastic drinking glass and one candle. Bring crayons or markers for students to decorate their bag.

Think of an out of the way, safe place to store the completed project until you are ready to use them.

Decide where you would like to use the completed project during the coming weeks. Some may be lit across the front of the sanctuary during a Sunday morning worship service. Light a few each week for the OPENING and song time. Share some with youth and adult Sunday School classes--to be lit during class time. Use them to light the party tables Week #13. Light the sidewalk path during an evening church function.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Seat the students quickly at tables prepared before they arrive. Each seat should have one bag, one candle and one drinking glass. Crayons and buckets of sand with scoops should be positioned near small groups of students.

Ask the students to decorate their bag with pictures and words that communicate LIGHT. They could draw the sun, lightning, candles, the word "Light", "Jesus is the Light", etc.

Make the candles very safe by pouring a small amount of melted wax into the bottom of the clear plastic drinking glass. While the wax is soft, insert a small candle so it stands up in the center of the drinking glass. Preferably the candle should not extend too far above the top of the glass or jar. (OPTION: DO THIS BEFORE CLASS, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS.)

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF



HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:10. Everyone wants to be loved by the people they know. It is very hard to live a Christian life when others don't understand why you do it. Sometimes Christians are laughed at, lose jobs, are not spoken to, or even lose their lives. Persecuted is a hard word. It means that even when we do the right thing, some will misunderstand our attitude. God understands and will reward a hard life with the kingdom of heaven.

ANOTHER WORD FOR BEATITUDE IS "HAPPINESS". IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY, DO THE THINGS CHRIST SAYS WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY. HE COULDN'T HAVE MADE THE PLAN MORE CLEAR--EVEN IF HE DID TALK ABOUT RICH POOR PEOPLE HAPPY MOURNERS, GENTLE WINNERS, REALISTIC DREAMERS, WARLIKE PEACEMAKERS AND WINNING LOSERS. THE WAY JESUS SAID IT MADE THE PEOPLE OF HIS DAY SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE EVEN TODAY WE MUST SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE OF THE MAN WITH THE PLAN. HE'S THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND THE WAY OF SALVATION.

WATCH YOUR TIME: If there is time, teach today's memory verse. It is a classic statement of what Christians are called to be. Repeat it in unison until everyone can say the verse. If there is time, shine a flashlight on each word of the verse as it is said. Let each student shine the light on the wall as the class says the verse.

The paper bag is opened and the top edge folded over twice toward the outside. Then fill the bottom of the bag with sand, gravel or pebbles. Place the candle in the sand.

WATCH THE TIME: If you think it will take too much time to complete all phases of the project in the 12-15 minutes allotted, place the candles in the cups before class.

OPTION FOR OLDER STUDENTS: If you have enough students, ask them to organize their bag decoration to read one fancy letter per bag: J-E-S-U-S I-S T-H-E L-I-G-H-T. Display these bags in a special place or situation in the church.



THIS IS “YOUR” LIFE!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: THE MAN WITH THE PLAN!

TEACHER PREPARATION

This learning center will feature the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-10. Make the printed visuals before class. Use posterboard or colored construction paper. Print the beatitudes with black marker. (SEE SAMPLE PATTERNS.) Display the beatitudes on the wall of the learning center throughout the series.

Print memory verse words as suggested on 21 small suns before class.

MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 5:16 LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. Teach this verse at the end of the learning center, if there is time. Print the verse on individual sun shapes to give to each student as a reminder of today's learning center. DISPLAY THE VERSE ON THE WALL BY PRINTING EACH WORD ON INDIVIDUAL SUNS. PLACE IN ORDER IN AN ARC ABOVE THE SUNS AND CLOUDS OF THE BEATITUDES.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the PLUG IN STORY TIME LEARNING CENTER Today we are going to talk about getting an ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT! Do you need one? Have you ever needed an attitude adjustment? I know I need one every once in awhile. Jesus was the MAN WITH THE PLAN. He told everyone who would listen to Him what the plan was to be.

Last week we learned that Jesus came into this world to be the Light of the world. He was treated badly by many people. But, there is good news--others listened to Him speak and believed in all He said. They literally changed their lives to become a follower of Jesus.



We do that too. The plan has not changed through the ages. Each one of us must bow our heads in prayer and ask Jesus to come into our lives. It is very easy. Even the youngest child listening to me can make this decision.

If you have never asked Jesus to be the Light of your life--but you want to--pray this prayer silently as I pray it aloud: DEAR JESUS, COME INTO MY LIFE BE MY LIGHT. FORGIVE MY SINS. HELP ME BELIEVE IN YOU AND TRUST YOU THROUGHOUT MY LIFE CHANGE MY ATTITUDES TO BE ONES THAT WILL PLEASE YOU. THANK YOU, JESUS. AMEN.

STORY/ACTIVITY TIME

Let's find out what THE PLAN was. Jesus spent as much time as He could with people who were interested in God's plan. There was no television or radio. Magazines were unheard of and only the very rich were able to touch the handwritten books of the time.

People talked! They talked to each other and gathered in many places to hear special speakers. Jesus spoke to huge crowds of people as He sat on a hill near Jerusalem called the Mount of Olives--there were lots of olive trees nearby.

As people listened, Jesus told them about a plan. He gave them a list of attitudes to help them shine in a dark world.

PASS SUNS AND CLOUDS AROUND THE CLASS. AS YOU TALK ABOUT EACH BEATITUDE AND REWARD, TAKE IT FROM THE STUDENT HOLDING IT AND PLACE IT ON A NEARBY WALL. OVERLAP THE CLOUD ON THE SUN FOR EACH BEAT

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD. MATTHEW 5:3. We must know that without God, we are nothing. Everything we own--everything we are is a gift from God. When we become poor in spirit, we become the richest of human beings!

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED. MATTHEW 5:4. Mourning in this beatitude is more than crying for someone we have lost This means that those who cry out to the Lord for salvation will receive it

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH. MATTHEW 5:5. The calm, quiet person gains what the pushy person eventually loses. There is strength in gentleness that the bully will never understand. A meek person can look forward to going to heaven while thoroughly enjoying the earth during his lifetime.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED. MATTHEW 5:6. This beatitude is meant for the



Christian who wants to see everyone in the world live like they should. This person loves everyone with Christ's love and looks forward to the day when the beautiful earth will be ruled in the right way by God Himself.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.

MATTHEW 5:7. Remember to show love and forgiveness to people who do wrong. Sometimes we stand back and say, "Look at that person. What an awful sin. I'd never do that!" God says there are times when we need forgiveness too. If we forgive others, we will be forgiven when our time comes.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD. MATTHEW 5:8. We must run away from sin. Sin separates us from God. He can't stand sin. It breaks His heart. We must keep our hearts and minds clean. When we do this, we will be rewarded with a wonderful time enjoying God in heaven.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD. MATTHEW 5:9. In a world of money-makers and war-makers, the Christian must be a person who promotes peace. Peacemakers are often misunderstood. Sometimes it's easier to stay in our own little world and forget the trouble other people are having. God will reward the extra effort of peacemakers by calling them sons of God--a very special title.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 5:10. Everyone wants to be loved by the people they know. It is very hard to live a Christian life when others don't understand why you do it. Sometimes Christians are laughed at, lose jobs, are not spoken to, or even lose their lives. Persecuted is a hard word. It means that even when we do the right thing, some will misunderstand our attitude. God understands and will reward a hard life with the kingdom of heaven.

ANOTHER WORD FOR BEATITUDE IS "HAPPINESS". IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY, DO THE THINGS CHRIST SAYS WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY. HE COULDN'T HAVE MADE THE PLAN MORE CLEAR--EVEN IF HE DID TALK ABOUT RICH POOR PEOPLE, HAPPY MOURNERS, GENTLE WINNERS, REALISTIC DREAMERS, WARLIKE PEACEMAKERS AND INNING LOSERS. THE WAY JESUS SAID IT MADE THE PEOPLE OF HIS DAY SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE.

EVEN TODAY WE MUST SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE OF THE MAN WITH HE PLAN. HE'S THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND THE WAY OF SALVATION.

WATCH YOUR TIME: If there is time, teach today's memory verse. It is a classic statement of what Christians are called to be. Repeat it in unison until everyone can say the verse. If there is time, shine a flashlight on each word of the verse as it is said. Let each student shine the light on the wall as the class says the verse.



=Blessed are
the
merciful,

for they will be
shown mercy."
Matthew 5:7

=Blessed are
the
pure in heart,

for they will
see God."
Matthew 5:8

=Blessed are
the
Peacemakers,

for they will be
called sons of God."
Matthew 5:9

=Blessed are
those who are
persecuted because
of righteousness,

for theirs is the
Kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:10

Plug In Storytime Pattern suggestions

Week #2

Beattitudes : Make large suns and clouds to use as visual aids during story/activity time. Use posterboard or construction paper.

= Blessed are
the
Poor in spirit,

for theirs is
the kingdom of
heaven."
MATTHEW 5:3

= Blessed are
those
who mourn,

for they will
be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

= Blessed are
the meek,

for they will
inherit the earth."
Matthew 5:5

= Blessed are those
who hunger and
thirst after
righteousness,

for they will
be filled."
Matthew 5:6

THIS IS "YOUR" LIFE!

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: CAN TOSS RELAY

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring large empty tin cans or large bowls from home. Bring enough to line up several on one side of the room. Provide lots of wadded paper (like balls) in two team colors for easy identification. Helpers will be needed to toss back the "misses" right away. Time the game with a stopwatch or secondhand on a watch. Blow a whistle to signify the end of the time limit.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Say today's memory verse with the students. Spend a few minutes discussing how to be lights for Christ in a dark world.

MEMORY VERSE

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY MAY SEE
YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.
MATTHEW 5:16.

Divide the group into two teams. Each team will receive the same number of colored, wadded balls.

Line the teams about six feet away (closer for younger students) from the row of cans and bowls. The teams may spread out behind the line since they will be throwing at the same time at any can or bowl.

EXPLAIN THE RULES: Today we are going to play a game that needs skill and speed. You must stay behind this line and throw your team's colored balls as quickly as possible into the cans and bowls on the other side of the room.

Helpers will toss back the "misses" immediately so someone from your team can try again.

At the end of the time limit, the helpers will count the number of each team's





balls in the containers. The team with the most successful throws is the winner of the round.

We will play 3 rounds in each game to determine the winning team.

The leader will decide the amount of time for each round. It may be 15 seconds, 30 seconds or 60 seconds.

The trick in this game is to stay out of the way as you throw and to throw with accuracy.

You may NOT hinder the player from another team from throwing their ball. If you do, your team will forfeit that round to the opposing team.

PROVIDE A SMALL PRIZE FOR EVERYONE AT THE END OF THE LEARNING CENTER, A HERSHEY KISS FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE LOSING TEAM AND TWO HERSHEY KISSES FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE WINNING TEAM.



THIS IS "YOUR" LIFE!

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: BELIEVER BADGES

TEACHER PREPARATION

Send for S&S arts and crafts catalog kits CRE-103 BELIEVER BADGES.
Cost from 1991 catalog listed at \$5.95 per pack of 24.

Description from catalog: paper circles are preprinted religious designs (2 each of 12 designs) to be glued to cardboard circles; your group decorates and glues on pin backs to complete. Includes precut and preprinted cardboard circles, pin backs, watercolor markers, non-toxic glue and instructions. Size: 3".

OPTION: Instead of purchasing the kits, make your own badges from cardboard circles, paper symbols, clear contact paper and pin backs.

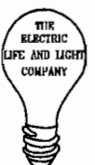
Cut three inch circles from cardboard before class--one per student. Cut paper symbols before class. SEE PATTERN FOR SAMPLE SYMBOLS.

Divide all parts of the badges into individual kits placed in plastic sandwich bags. This allows helpers to set up for each learning center very quickly. Each student will receive a kit with the cardboard circle, paper circle, pin back and slip of paper for their name.

Place glue, markers and scissors on table. Provide enough so that materials are shared between four students--two on one side of the table and two on the other side. Quick work is crucial for this learning center. Students must be ready to move at the end of the time period.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Seat students immediately at tables where individual BELIEVER BADGE KITS are awaiting them.



Students must write their name on slip of paper for future identification of their badge.

Students will color their badge in markers set out at the table.

Students will glue the paper to the cardboard and will glue the pin back to the reverse side of the pin.

OPTION: If making badges without the S&S kits, consider covering each badge with clear contact paper and cutting around the circle before gluing into place on the cardboard circle.

WATCH THE TIME: Students must work quickly from the moment they sit down. Show a completed sample and have the students begin work as you describe the craft. Helpers will be needed to assist younger students.

Older students may be able to complete a more complicated project but remember they are under the same time restrictions as younger students. This project will fill their time without frustration. Do not carry the project over into the next week.



Candle Power Crafts
Believer Badges

Week #2

Sample Badge Patterns



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

PLUG IN STORY TIME

TEACHER PREPARATION

This learning center will deal with the benefits of a Christian life. Bring an audio cassette recorder playing cheerful Christian music. You may want to change the music for the older student to more appropriate Christian performers--Amy Grant, Larnelle Harris, Sandi Patti, Keith Green, etc. Choose music you think the various age groups will enjoy.

Cut the chain strips before class. Each student should have one set to work with during story/activity time. Provide tape/staples/glue (your choice) for, attaching the loops of the chain as the teacher teaches. Place pencils on the table for name signing on the blank chain link. SEE PATTERN SAMPLE.

MEMORY VERSE

I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY. JOHN 10:10B. Who said these words? Why did He say them? What do you think this verse means?

INTRODUCTION

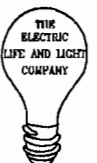
We are still talking about JESUS--THE LIFE AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD. The ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY is excited to present reasons why living the Christian life is the most exciting choice kids can make.

Let's listen to some music for a minute or two. (PLAY ONE UPBEAT CHRISTIAN SONG ON YOUR TAPE RECORDER.)

Wasn't that great? And not once did the singer tell us to take drugs, hate our parents, turn from God or run away from home. I don't know about you, but I feel good when I listen to that. I know that God is in control and I know my life is full of benefits given by Jesus.

STORY/ACTIVITY TIME

Last week we learned about the Beatitudes. We all got an it attitude



adjustment". While Jesus was talking to the group on the hill called the Mt. of Olives, He was looking into their eyes and wanting the best of God's kingdom for each person there.

Jesus knew better than anyone what the rich rewards of following God are. As much as Jesus wanted to shake each person and shout "I force you to believe," He couldn't.

Instead He said, "Happy are those who strive for peace--they shall be called the sons of God.. those who teach God's laws and obey them will be great in heaven ... Love your enemies ... Pray ... Don't store up treasures here on earth, store them in heaven where they will never lose their value ... don't worry ... don't worry ... don't worry." Taken from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5.

You see, when God created man and woman He gave each of us a will--a freedom to choose for ourselves what we will believe about God. Even God will not break that rule. He will never force us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Each of us must make that decision for ourselves.

After all, what kind of love would it be if we didn't have a choice. No one wants to be told what to do. If Jesus could, He would gather each one of us in His arms and say "Choose the best way of life--believe what I say."

COME WITH ME TO A WORKTABLE I HAVE SET UP IN THE CORNER: Each of us is going to make a short chain that tells about some of the benefits we gain when we trust Jesus. Each word begins with a P to help us remember.

PEACE: Find the chain strip that says "peace". (HELP NON-READERS FIND THE PROPER STRIP.) We're going to staple/tape/glue it into a circle.

God loves you and wants you to have peace and life--rich and forever. The word "abundant" in today's memory verse means that Jesus wants you to have "life like you've never had it before." The Bible says, "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1.

If you have ever been really afraid, you will understand how wonderful peace feels. God wants us to feel that way all the time. Peace only comes when we



trust Jesus to take care of all our problems.

PURPOSE: Some people fumble around through life never knowing where they are going. They stop and start, trying to figure out why they are on earth. One of the benefits of being a Christian is having God's Word to tell us where we are headed. It is like a map or guide book. When a Christian reads the Bible, it is more than a collection of words. The Bible gives us a purpose for our lives.

Think about an Old Testament verse: TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART. LEAN NOT UPON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATH. PROVERBS 4:5-6.

It sounds like pretty good advice. It gives me purpose. It gives me something wise to think about as I go about my work and as you go about your play and school time. I like God's Word because it gives me purpose.

PLACE: Guess what? One of the benefits of being a Christian is having a special place in the family of God. We are called "children of God." Not everyone born into this world can say that. But--we're in the family!

The Bible says, "BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD, EVEN TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIS NAME." JOHN 1:12.

Now, let's join all these benefits to the benefits of the kids next to you. We're all a part of God's wonderful plan. There are some plain strips to join this chain together. Write your name on one and attach it to the chains of the students next to you.

There are many more benefits of being a Christian. We have only touched the surface. From now on, think of yourself as someone very special in the sight of God.



Week #3

Plug In Story Time:

Precut strips for each student.

As teacher talks about each benefit of the Christian life, the students will tape/staple/glue their loops.

Blank strip is for student signature.

These loops will attach all loops into one long chain.

Display the chain in the Learning Center.

		PURPOSE	PEACE
--	--	---------	-------

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

LIGHTING FUN AND GAMES: SNACK DAY

TEACHER PREPARATION

Instead of a game, today's learning center will be a snack time. Any snack will be fun for the students but a suggestion is given so students will help in the preparation of their snack.

Bring cookie cutters, bread, sandwich spreads (peanut butter and jelly, soft cream cheese, ham salad, etc.), juice.

Napkins, paper plates, cups, knives.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Ask the students to stand around a table where bread, spreads, cookie cutters are set up. They may choose a cutter to cut shapes in their bread. Let them choose the kind of spread to fit in the fancy cut bread.

Once their bread is cut and spread, they move to another table where chairs and juice are awaiting them.

Eat and relax.



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: WIND CATCHER

TEACHER PREPARATION

Materials needed: one small paper bag for each child, 1 x 16 inch strips of colored tissue paper, glue, hole punch and 4 yard length of yarn for each child, two ring-binder reinforcements for each child. SEE SAMPLE PATTERN SHEET.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Give each student a paper bag. Each student folds over the top edge of the paper bag. Then the students glue on tissue paper strips.

Help the younger students punch two holes through the cuff of the paper bag and add hole reinforcements.

Students then tie yarn to the paper bag.

OLDER STUDENTS may print today's memory verse around the cuff of the wind catcher.

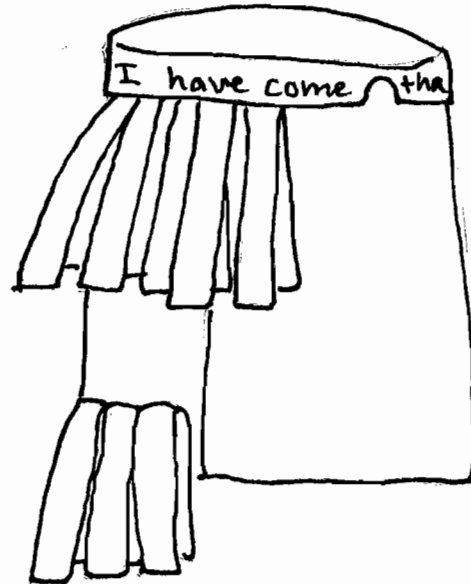
MEMORY VERSE

I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY. JOHN 10:10B.

CANDLE POWER CRAFTS

Week #3

Wind Catcher



TURN ON YOUR HEART LIGHT!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: CHECK OUT THE WORLD IN A NEW WAY

TEACHER PREPARATION

This will be a first person story time. Dress in basic Bible time costume. Wear a wrap around tunic, shawl, head drape and sandals or be barefoot.

Prepare to tell the story as if you are the person involved. Really become this Bible character. Greet the students in character when they enter and dismiss them as you remain that same person.

The story is found in Luke 13:10-17.

Bring ice water, cheeses, crackers, wicker baskets, small drinking cups.

MEMORY VERSE

FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. ROMANS 6:23. Teach this verse at the end of the learning center if there is time. If not give each student a scroll with the verse printed on it to take home. SEE PATTERN SAMPLE.

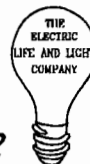
INTRODUCTION

Shalom! Welcome to my resting place. I must speak to you. Sit, rest and visit. You are all looking blessed by our Lord God this fine day.

I would be an impolite host if I did not offer you drink and food. Please--come and eat.

(SERVE ICE WATER IN SMALL CUPS. PREPARE TRAYS OF CHEESE AND CRACKERS. PLACE THE CHEESES AND CRACKERS IN WICKER BASKETS. PASS THE BASKETS AROUND THE ROOM.)

As we rest, let me tell you my story. I met the Master! --just yesterday as I walked to our small village. Actually, I hobbled to our small village. I was horribly handicapped--just yesterday! I could hardly walk and my back was bent so that I could only look at the ground as I walked.



If you have never been like that, you do not understand how painful it is. I could not breathe right I could not clean my own house or wash my family's clothing at the riverbank. Each step I took was so painful that I cried to the Lord to let me die. When I tried to sleep at night, I could not. My body has been my fiercest enemy for 18 long years.

Then yesterday I heard a large group of people traveling on the small road behind me. They were talking and laughing. As they walked, more people gathered around them. I could not see them well but I knew that someone important was with them. I hurried to get out of their way. I must admit I was afraid they would knock me over--and that would hurt!

All of a sudden the group got very quiet. They seemed to be watching me. The man--I later learned he was Jesus--called me over to him. He said, "Come here, dear lady. You look as if you are hurting terribly. I'm so sorry for your pain. Woman, you are healed of your sickness!"

I looked into his eyes and somehow I believed him. Instantly, I stood straight It felt so good! I looked into his eyes and saw love and joy just as if I had been a member of his family.

I jumped up and down. I wiggled my back and stretched my arms over my head. Look! I can still do it today. (STAND AND STRETCH AND JUMP.) I praised and thanked God with all my heart.

This man Jesus is truly the Master--the promised Messiah. He took a sick woman and made me whole. I will never look at the world in the same way again. I feel as if my heart light has been turned on. I love everyone and I tell all I meet about the Master.

I did hear a bit of gossip on my way over here today. I think I got the Master in trouble for a little while. I heard that our local Jewish leader in charge of the synagogue was very angry about it I didn't think about it then, but yesterday was the Sabbath.

Our people have very strict Sabbath day rules. We must not work at all on this day. We must rest and pray. The Jewish leader said, "There are six days of the week to work, those are the days to come for healing, not on the Sabbath!" He wasn't even happy for me--and I have known his family all my life. I'm not sure whether to feel angry or sad about that



My friend, Elizabeth, said she heard Jesus answer, "You hypocrite! You work on the Sabbath! Don't you untie your cattle from their stalls on the Sabbath and lead them out for water? And is it wrong for me, just because it is the Sabbath day, to free this Jewish woman from the bondage she suffered for 18 years?"

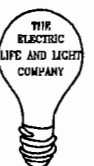
That got to the Jewish leader. He was ashamed of his outburst and all the people gathered around laughed at him. And all the people rejoiced at the wonderful things Jesus did.

Last night was the best night of my life. My family was so happy. My neighbors came to my house to hug me and cry. We praised God a lot too. I will never forget looking into the eyes of Jesus. I will look at life in a new way from this day forth.

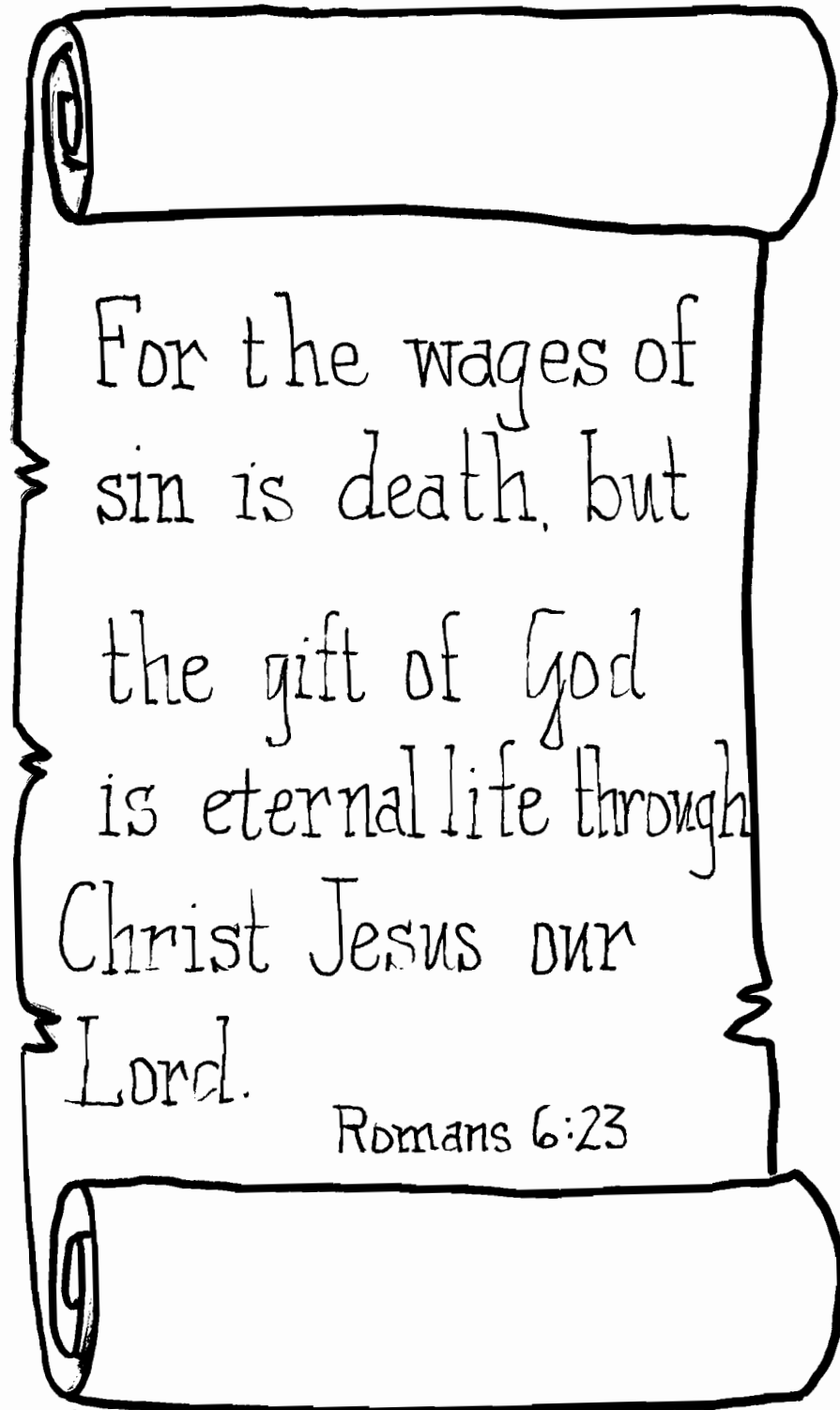
Please, trust Jesus. He is the savior of the world. He brings life and light wherever He is invited. I am so happy and I want you to be happy too.

MEMORY VERSE TIME

I know a portion of scripture taught by followers of Jesus. It says that THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. ROMANS 6:23. I believe it. Before I was healed I did not believe as I should about the power of God. Now I am changed. I know I have eternal life because I met Jesus, our Lord!



Memory Verse time



For the wages of
sin is death, but
the gift of God
is eternal life through
Christ Jesus our
Lord.

Romans 6:23

TURN ON YOUR HEART LIGHT

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: BALL TOSS ON A SHEET

TEACHER PREPARATION

This is not a competitive game. This is just plain fun. Try this outdoors if weather and area permit.

Materials needed: one bed sheet, one beach ball. This may vary according to the size of your group. You may enjoy bringing several beach balls to watch them fly through the air.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Have the sheet or sheets spread out on the ground when the students arrive. Seat the students around the sheet. Place them so the entire sheet can be lifted with a ball in the middle.

Tell the students that you are going to test their balancing skills. They must be able to work together as a team to toss the ball higher and higher on the sheet without allowing it to fall to the ground.

Practice lifting the sheet without a ball first. Let the students get the feel of air rushing under and over the sheet as they work together to move it up and down.

After they have had an opportunity to practice, place one large beach ball in the middle of each group's sheet. They must now toss the ball up and down, keeping it on their sheet. They may start slowly and work their way up to tossing the ball very high in the air.

It is fun to try several balls. Add them one at a time until the students can toss them all and keep them on the sheet.



TURN ON YOUR HEART LIGHT

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: HEART BOOKMARKS

TEACHER PREPARATION

Copy heart and marker pattern page before class. Precut pieces (2 markers and 2 hearts per student) for all age groups if you think time will be short during the learning center. Use colored construction paper or oak tag or posterboard. Precut 1/8" satin ribbon into 10" lengths.

Supplies: scissors, glue, magic markers, pencils.

OPTION: Purchase heart stickers to place in center of marker instead of having the students draw hearts.

INTRODUCTION

Today we have been talking about turning on our heart light To remember where we are reading in our Bibles or Bible story books, lets make a heart book marker.

CLASS TIME

Seat the students near the supplies they will need. Students will cut out 2 book markers and 2 hearts for each bookmark they make.

OPTION: If there is time, spread cardboard patterns around the table and let the students trace their own markers on the paper colors of their choice. Watch your time!

Color each outside piece of the marker with hearts--or today's memory verse if the students can print quickly.

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 6:23 THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH BUT THE BUT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.





After the pieces are cut and colored, the students must place one end of the 10" length of ribbon between the 2 marker pieces and (with just a little glue) glue all pieces together.

Place the hearts on the end of the ribbon and glue the two hearts on either side of the other end of the ribbon. This will stick out of the book.

BE SURE EACH STUDENT SIGNS NAME IN PENCIL. DRY ON A FLAT TABLE FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS.

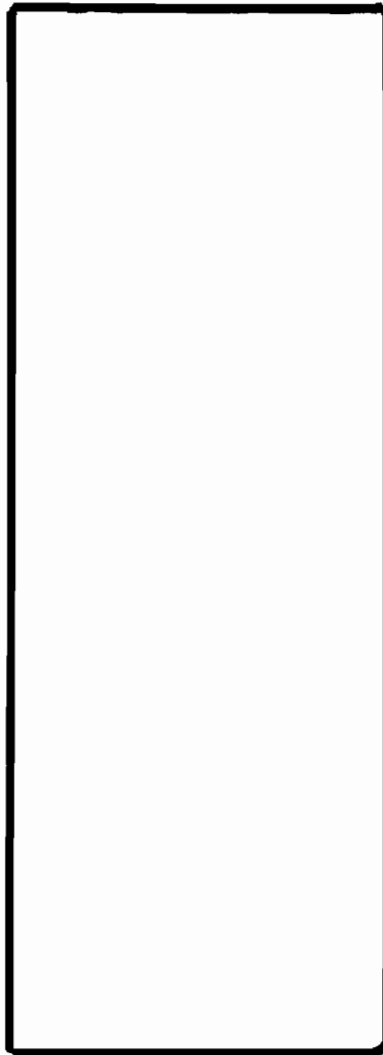
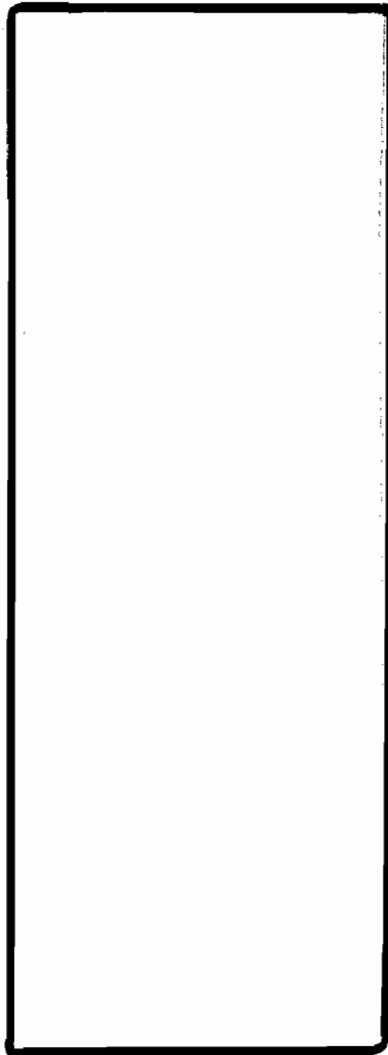
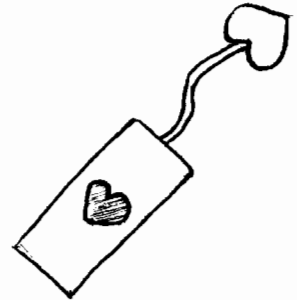
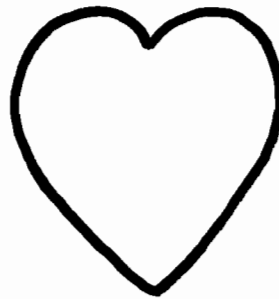
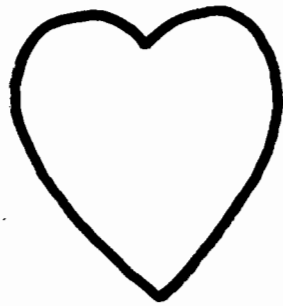


Week #4: Candlepower Crafts

Heart Bookmark

Copy this pattern - one per student.

Use construction paper or oaktag or poster board. Follow instructions in lesson plan.



STEP INTO THE SONSHINE!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: TRUST JESUS!

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring a jar of pennies. If desired, give each student one penny to keep. If not, let them reach in the jar to grab some pennies as you ask questions in the introduction. Bring one blindfold. Print today's memory verse on a large sun. If available, show a picture of Jesus praying in Gethsemane.

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 3:5,6 TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE WILL DIRECT THY PATHS.

INTRODUCTION

Today we are going to talk about trust. Look at these pennies. Each one has a simple phrase written across the top. IN GOD WE TRUST. What does that mean? (LET THE STUDENTS RESPOND.)

Let's check out 11 trust" in another way. I pick you--you--and you--to see if you have this "trust" quality. Come here beside me and let's see.

STUDENT #1: (Turn the student so his back is toward you. When you give the signal, he is to fall straight back without looking. You must catch him as he falls toward you.)

STUDENT #2: (Blindfold the student and lead him around the classroom--just missing the others seated in the learning center. Tell the others to ooh and aah when you come close to catastrophe.)

STUDENT #3: (Ask this student to choose someone else in the learning center to trust him. He may blindfold the student or ask that student to fall into his arms.)



Whether we are trusting in God to lead our nation or are trusting in another person to keep us safe, trust means having that moment of wonder. We wonder if we are doing the right thing. We wonder if the person is really "trustworthy". Then comes a leap of faith when we say "Okay, I'm going to trust that this person will do as he says."

STORY TIME

We usually think that we must trust in Jesus--and that's very true. But there was a time when Jesus had to trust in God. He had to trust God with his most important possession--his earthly life.

Jesus had spent the past three years spreading sunshine in all the small communities He visited. He told everyone about God's special love. He reminded people that man) s ways were not always God's ways and they must stop following the wrong men.

As you can imagine the enemies were angry. They wanted to get rid of Jesus any way they could. They spread lies about Hm. They tried to have him arrested. They wanted him dead and out of their way.

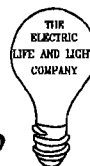
Jesus knew the enemies were closing in on Hm. He gathered his 12 friends together and tried to prepare them for the bad time that was coming. They ate and talked--they may have laughed a bit as they remembered old times.

SHOW A PICTURE OF JESUS PRAYING IN GETHSEMANE Late at night Jesus asked them to go with Hm to a nearby garden called Gethsemane. He needed to pray. Jesus may have been frightened or sorrowful. He had Someone to turn to when He needed Hm-God, the Father.

The disciples were very tired. Jesus was trusting them to keep watch for Hm. He said, "My soul is crushed ... stay here ... stay awake with me." (Matthew 26:38)

You know what happened--they fell asleep. When Jesus returned, there they were on the ground. He felt terrible that they didn't stay awake. He said, "Couldn't you even stay awake with me one hour? Keep alert and pray." (Matthew 26:40-41).

The disciples were not the only ones Jesus needed to trust that night He also had to trust that God would do the right thing with Him. Jesus didn't want to die--none of us do. He cried out to God, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup be taken away from me. But I want your will, not mine ... Your will be done." (taken from Matthew



26:39 and 42)

Jesus trusted God through the terrible days. Men were terrible to Him. They arrested Him, put Him on trial, beat him, made fun of him and then killed him. It took all of Jesus' trust to continue the journey planned for Him.

The disciples were disappointed in themselves. They knew they had failed their friend Jesus just when He needed them most As the next days unfolded they made sure that they would never fail Jesus again--as long as they lived!

IF TIME REMAINS, WORK ON TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE SHORTEN IT FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS. PRINT THE VERSE ON A ROUND SUN TO DISPLAY ON THE WALL. REPEAT IT TOGETHER UNTIL EVERYONE CAN SAY IT.

STEP INTO THE SONSHINE!

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: TRASH CAN BASKETBALL

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring two large trash cans or wastebaskets. Provide a basketball or nerf ball. Determine team identification (example: small pieces of ribbon in two team colors attached to collars with a safety pin).

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Divide them into two equal teams and pin their team color on them.

Explain the rules of Trash Can Basketball. Keep the rules simple if you decide to use different rules than the ones listed here.

Follow regular basketball rules with these exceptions:

1. There is no dribbling. All movement of the ball is by passing. This helps to make the game not only more practical but fairer in a coed or younger student situation.
2. There is no running with the ball, only passing to a teammate.
3. If you touch a player with the ball, that's a foul. The fouled player gets a free shot.
4. There should be a circle drawn around the trash cans about six feet from the cans, which is a no-man's land. No one is allowed here. This prevents goal tending and dunking, making the game fairer for everyone.



STEP INTO THE SUNSHINE!

CANDLE POWER CRAFTS: SCRIPTURE SUN VISORS

TEACHER PREPARATION

S&S arts and crafts catalog offers a ready made pack to make sun visors. CRE-37 SCRIPTURE SUN VISORS. Easy to make and fun to wear. Pack includes precut cardboard visors, elastic, permanent markers, inspirational design ideas and instruction. Size: One size fits all. 1991 price information: \$15.49 per pack of 48. 32 cents per project.

CCO-1 Visors Only. (elastic not included), \$9.99 per pack of 60.

OPTION: Make your own sun visor pattern and cut visors out of posterboard or oaktag. Tie elastic string from one side to the other. Reinforce holes with white stick-on reinforcements.

See the patterns for making your own version. Use the symbols by copying them and having students choose one to place on their visor. They may color and cut their symbol before gluing it into place in the center front of the visor.

Use permanent markers to decorate the visors.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

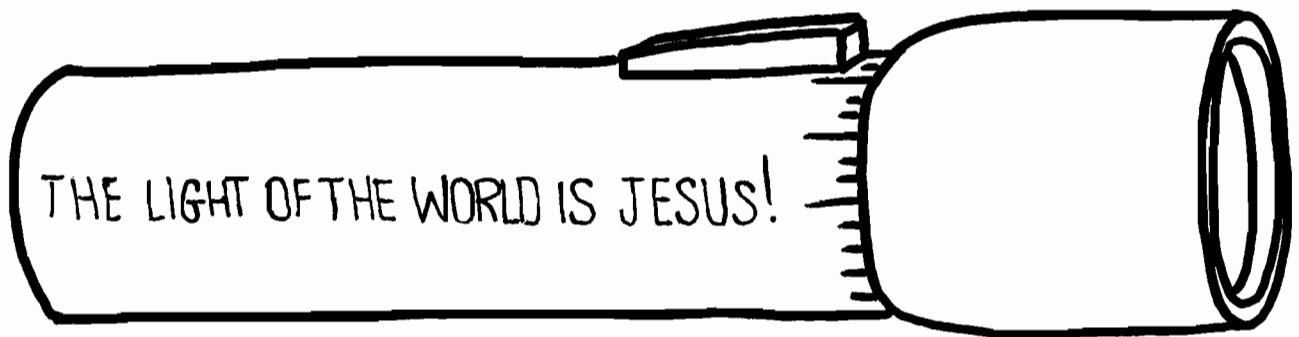
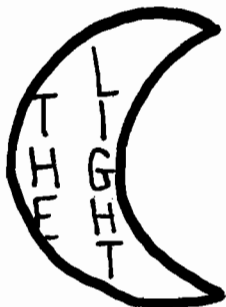
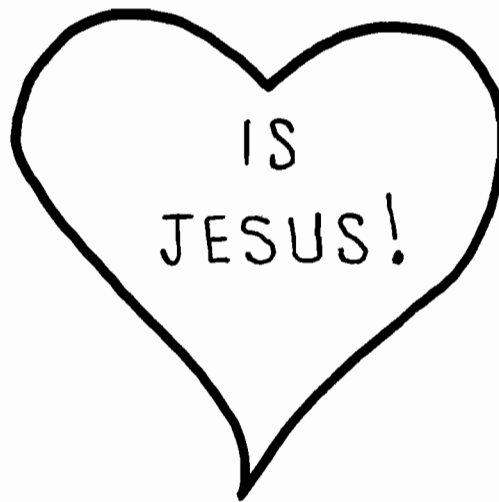
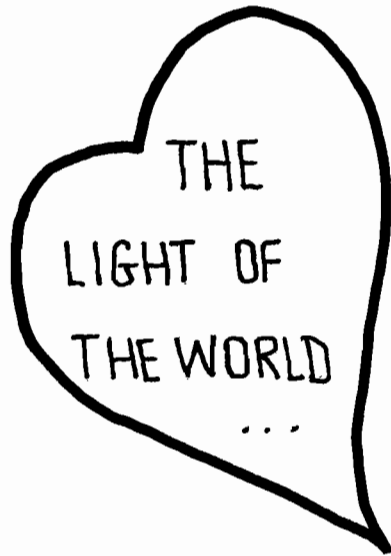
Seat the students at tables with supplies set up nearby.

Give each student one sun visor which has been precut and hole-punched and reinforced.

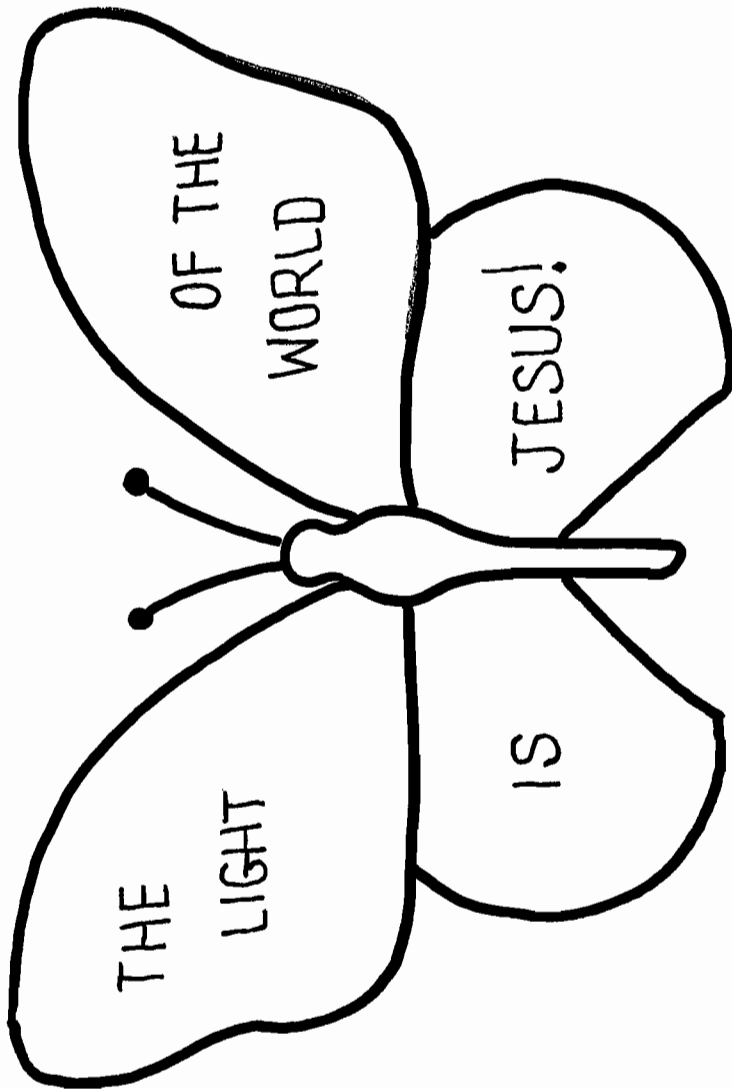
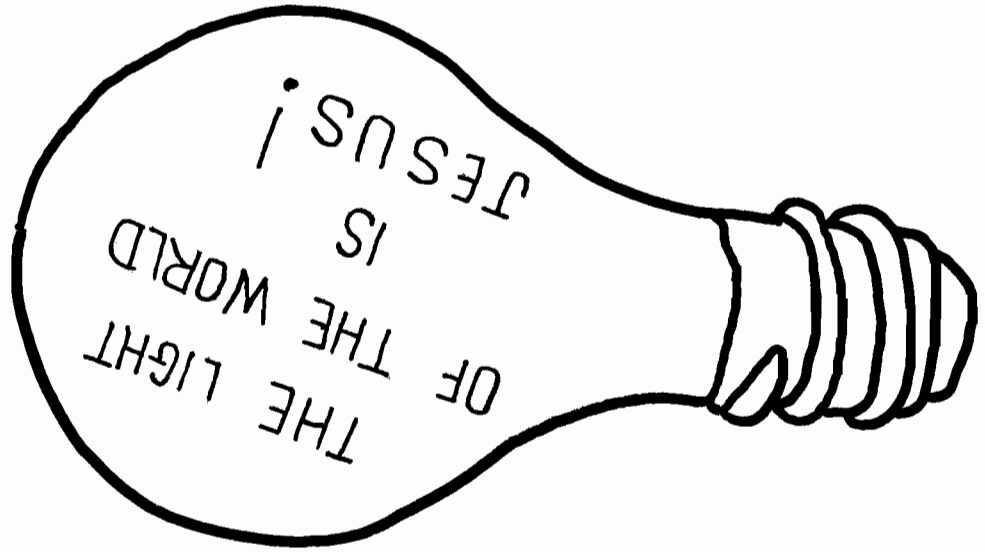
Let them decorate their visors with scripture symbols using markers.

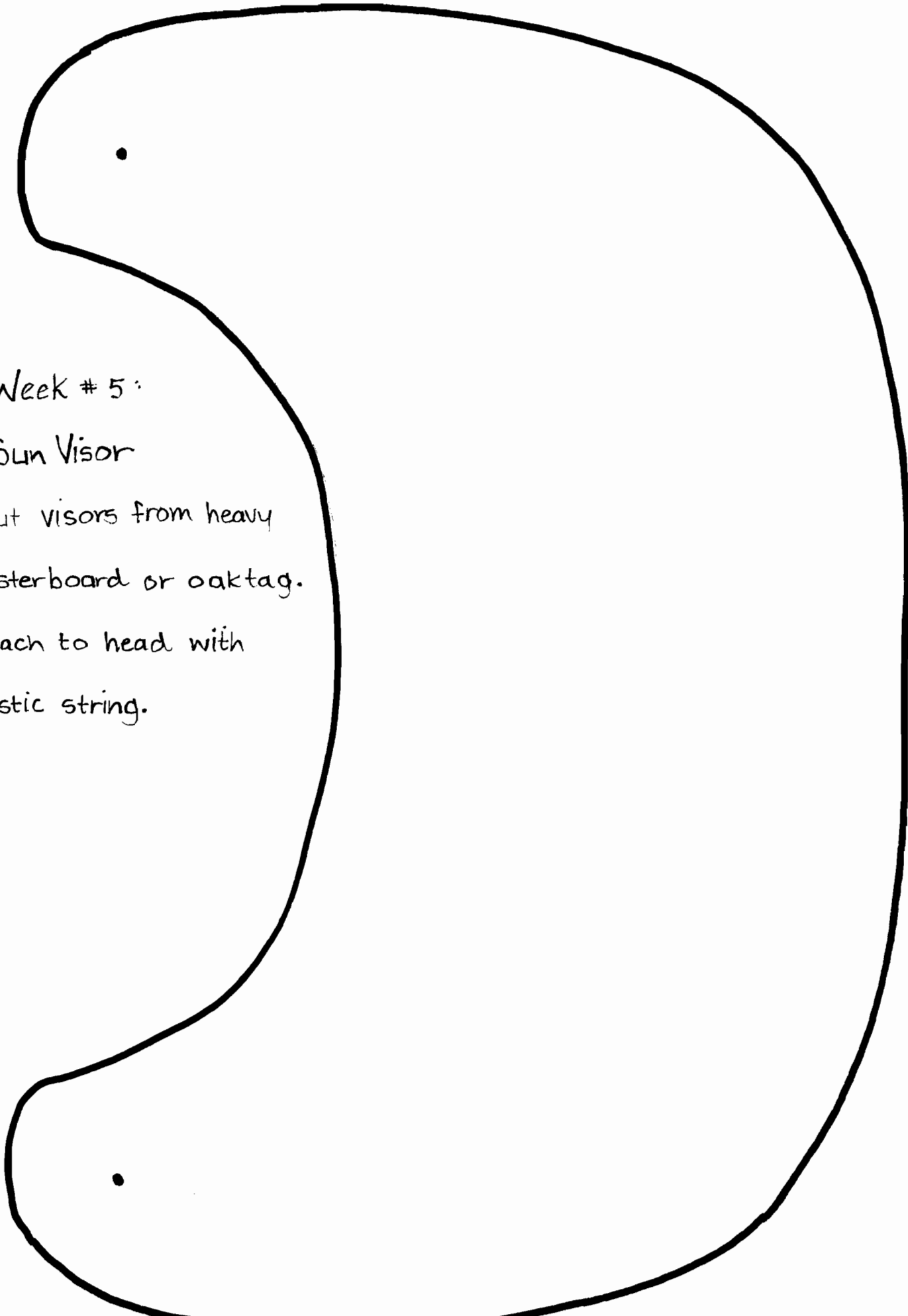
Be sure each student signs their name in pencil for identification.

Week #5: Candlepower Crafts



Week #5 : Candlepower Crafts





Week # 5:

Sun Visor

Cut visors from heavy
posterboard or oaktag.

Attach to head with
elastic string.

YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: SERVING OTHERS

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring lots of nuts for the students to eat. You may want to place individual portions into plastic sandwich bags to avoid grabbing and overindulging!

MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 7:12 LB. DO FOR OTHERS WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO FOR YOU.

Print the verse on a very small piece of paper. Roll or fold it and place it in an empty walnut shell. Reattach the shell halves with glue.

Crack the shell open and act surprised that you found it inside.

Tell the students: This verse is often called the GOLDEN RULE In the Living Bible the rest of the verse says "...This is the teaching of the laws of Moses in a nutshell."

People who have read the laws of Moses will laugh at that because those laws are long and quite complicated. People needed help to understand all the things they had to do to keep the law.

I'm glad this verse makes things easier. Let's learn it together. (SAY IT WITH THE STUDENTS UNTIL THEY CAN SAY IT ALONE.)

INTRODUCTION

I brought a snack for all of us today--peanuts! Have some as I talk about what Jesus said about serving others.

(LET THE STUDENTS HAVES SOME NUTS WHILE YOU INTRODUCE TODAY'S LEARNING CENTER.)



Here at the ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY we have been discussing how Jesus is the Life and Light of the world. Jesus did so many wonderful things for people while He lived on earth that we can learn how to behave while learning about Him.

The Golden Rule shows us that Jesus felt we all need to be treating others well. That means we must help folks in trouble. We must be kind to all people. When we do, we will be treated well in return.

Let's imagine a world where everyone followed the Golden Rule and served others. What would it be like? (LET THE STUDENTS RESPOND.)

GET STUDENT RESPONSES FOR THE FOLLOWING

SITUATIONS: How would people treat each other in a traffic jam at dinner time? How would people treat each other when they are sick? At school, how would you treat another student who wasn't very smart or pretty? There are some very poor families in your town, what would you do to help them? Mom is tired. How can you help her?

STORY TIME

Jesus always followed the Golden Rule. After all, He is the Light of the World. He lit the way for the rest of us.

Everywhere Jesus went, people followed Him. They wanted to hear what He had to say. They saw Him heal people and wanted to be healed too. They brought sick folks to Him by the dozens. Poor people wanted to be fed. They may have wanted money. Some had heard that Jesus would be king someday and wanted to be close so they could be popular.

Jesus did not want to disappoint anyone. He wanted this fresh message of God's Love to be shouted throughout the land. He worked hard all the time.

We never hear stories about how Jesus collected a lot of money for Himself or went on fancy vacations. He was always serving others. In fact, He only owned one set of clothes when He died on the cross. The soldiers were disappointed there was not more for them to steal.



Often Jesus would have to get into a small boat and go to the middle of the lake to get away from people so He could sleep. The disciples tried to protect Him but people came anyway--even kids!

Does that tell you something about Jesus? He loved us a great deal. He knew His time was short. His purpose for coming to earth was to serve others. His light shone brightly and still shines today through each of us.

What would happen to His light if we refuse to serve others? (IT WOULD GET VERY DIM.) Will the light of Jesus ever go out? (NO. GOD HAS PROMISED THAT WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A PEOPLE.)

This week I want you to remember to follow the Golden Rule and serve others--not just to get nice things in return. Serve others to keep the light of Jesus shining brightly in our world.

Let's remember the verse we learned several weeks ago--MATTHEW 5:16 LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

PRACTICE TODAY'S VERSE IF TIME REMAINS.

YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: SPOON AND MARBLE RACE

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring a variety of spoon sizes and a bag of marbles. Place two glass jars on chairs at the end of the race course.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Divide the group into two equal teams. Ask the students to line up single file as a team.

Give the first student a spoon and one marble. When the go signal is given, the student must run to the end of the course and place the marble in a glass jar.

The student must run back to his team, pass the spoon to the next student who takes one marble to the jar and runs back.

Continue until each team member has completed the task.

The first team done and seated in single file on the floor wins.

GAME VARIATIONS:

1. Walk backwards with spoon and marble.
2. After depositing marble, hop on one foot back to the starting line.
3. Carry as many marbles as possible on the spoon. Instead of each team member carrying one, set a time limit. The most marbles in the jar at the end of the time limit, wins.
4. Vary the sizes of spoons. Use large slot spoons for younger students and tiny spoons for older students.

Play until time is done for this learning center.

YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: SUN CATCHERS

TEACHER PREPARATION

There are many types of sun catcher crafts in craft stores and in catalogs.

S&S arts and crafts catalog offers a no-bake type with Christian sayings. CRE-89. Shining Light Sun Catchers. No-bake glittering sun ornaments to make from assorted plastic frames, non-toxic stained glass paint and brushes. Instructions included. Size: 2 1/4" -2 1/2". 1991 price information: \$7.40 per pack of 12. 62 cents per project.

OPTION: Make a homemade version by using overhead transparency vinyl. Precut the transparency into squares. Allow the students to choose the symbol they want SEE PATTERN SUGGESTIONS. Use coloring books.

SUPPLIES: transparency squares, black permanent markers, colored permanent markers, paper punch, yarn, scissors.

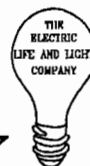
WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Place the transparency squares--or SUN CATCHERS in front of each student. Follow all sun catcher instructions if using a commercial craft pack.

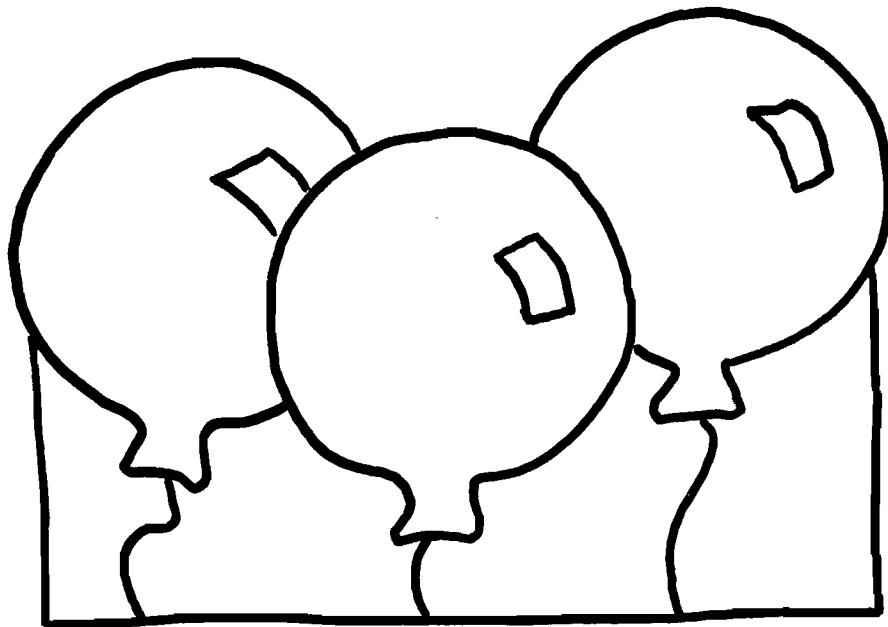
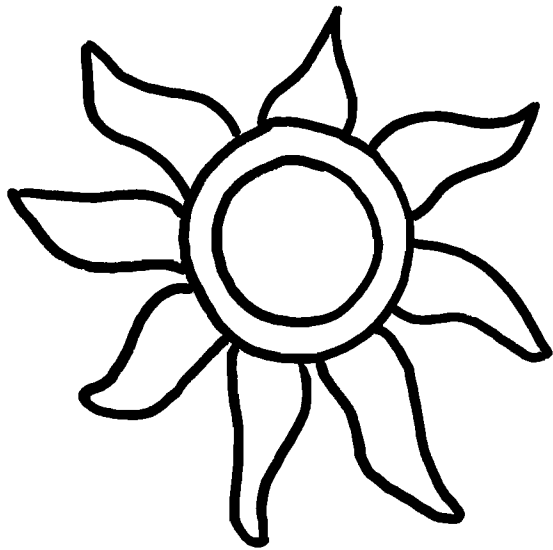
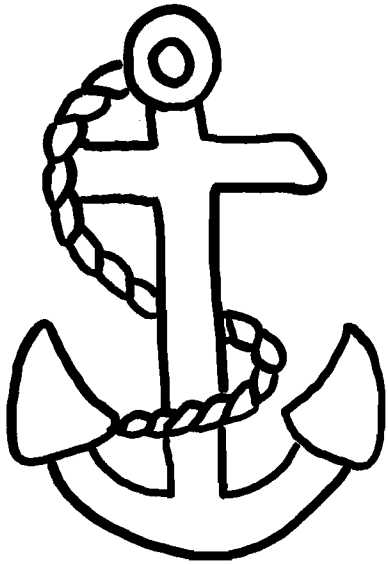
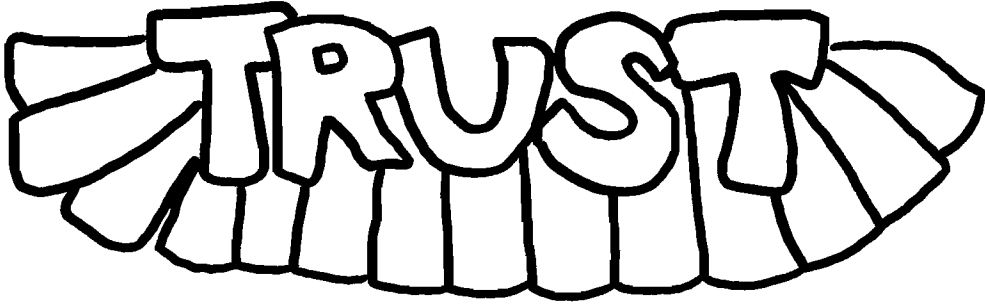
If using the homemade version, let the students choose a symbol. They must outline the symbol with permanent black marker by placing the transparency over the copy of the symbols. When it is dry, they will use colored permanent markers to fill in the areas.

Cut out the symbol and punch a hole in the top. Tie a small piece of yarn through the hole and hang in a window.

IF THERE IS TIME, LET STUDENTS MAKE TWO OR THREE SUN CATCHERS.

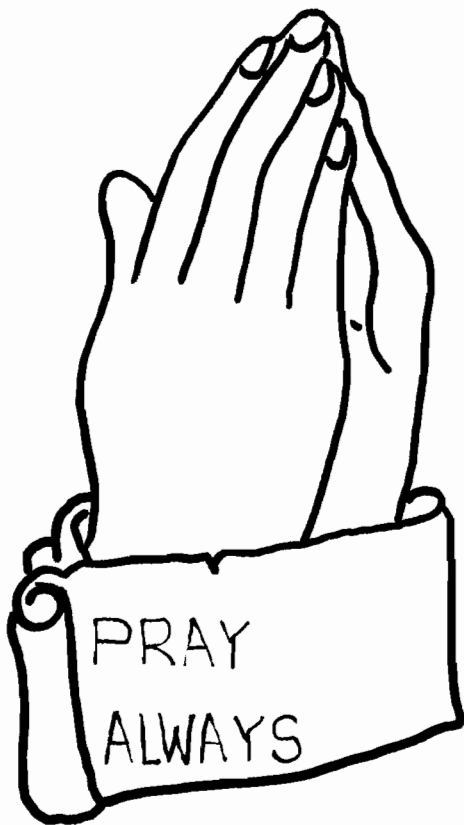
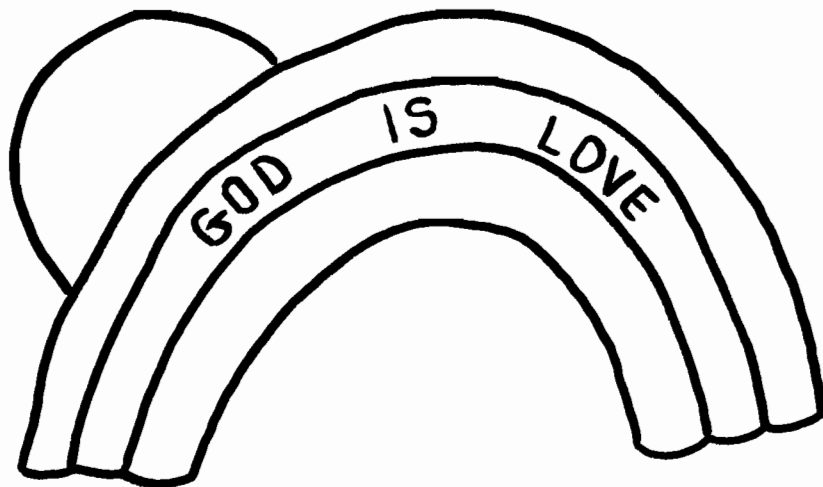
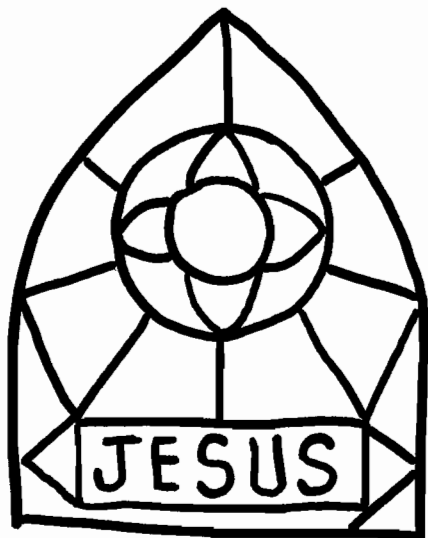


Week #6: Candlepower Crafts
Suncatcher Patterns - Homemade version



Week # 6: Candlepower Crafts

Suncatcher Patterns - Homemade version



LIGHTEN UP!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: TREAT YOURSELF RIGHT!

TEACHER PREPARATION

Plan a series of fun exercises. Use an exercise video tape if available. (example: Richard Simmons, "Sweatin' to the Oldies" parts 1 or 2. OR a Christian exercise tape.)

If video tape is not an option, use an audio cassette tape of cheerful Christian music. Plan some simple exercise moves before class.

Bring electrical extension cords for story time. Attach a tag to each cord stating the main point listed in the STORY TIME lesson.

OPTION: Use the PATTERN included. Copy one for each point, color in appropriate colors and print one point per "plug".

MEMORY VERSE

MARK 8:36 LB HOW DOES A MAN BENEFIT IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSES HIS SOUL IN THE PROCESS?

INTRODUCTION

Last week we talked about serving others. This time we will talk about treating ourselves right. After all, we must be the right kind of person that will please the Lord and will draw all men to Him. How do we do that? I have a few ideas.

First, lets exercise for a few minutes. It will feel good after sitting so long. Everybody up and at'em! (PLAY A TAPE AND EXERCISE. DO SOME SILLY EXERCISES TOO--LIKE THE FINGER WIGGLE THE TOE WIGGLE, THE WAVE, THE TWIST, THE EAR TWITCH, THE NOSE TWITCH AND THE TONGUE TANGLE.)

That was hilarious! You guys know how to have fun and treat yourself



right as well.

STORY TIME

Just like we need physical exercise, we need spiritual exercise to form us into the "bright, electric" Christians God intends us to be.

We can limp along, if we choose, by never doing the things God tells us. We become flabby, lazy Christians and are tempted to do things that a "lean and mean" Christian would never think of doing.

Let's take a look at some things that will make each of us bright Christians and worthy members of the ELECTRIC LIFE AND LIGHT COMPANY.

SHOW THE ELECTRICAL CORDS OR PAPER PLUGS YOU HAVE PREPARED BEFORE THE LEARNING CENTER.

READ YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY. One of the wonderful things about learning how to read is that God's Word can become alive to us. As you learn how to read, use your skill to find out the wonderful message of Jesus. Find a Bible translation that is easy for you to understand.

If you cannot read yet, ask your parents or grandparents to get you a Bible Story book. Then they can read one story to you each night before you go to sleep.

PRAY. Even if you cannot read yet, you can pray. Prayer is talking to God. All of us can talk. Tell the Lord how much you love Him. Tell Him your problems and ask him to help. Pray for other people.

There is a famous saying, "Prayer Changes Things". Try it! It really does.

TELL OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST. Once we know Jesus as our Savior, it's hard to keep it inside. Our lives become happy, peaceful and fulfilling. Others will see a difference. Some kids may even come to you and say, "What makes you so different from the other kids I know?" What a wonderful opportunity to tell them how Jesus changes us into bright Christians.

Don't be shy. Tell people the truth and they will respect you for your beliefs. Often we feel people will laugh at us but then we find they are searching for a happier life. They want to know how to live like you do. Tell them with a bright smile and simple



words. Maybe you could even invite them to Sunday School.

COME TO CHURCH. We can be Christians without being in a church but few people can do it. We all need other Christians to say "Atta boy! You're doing it right!" OR "Better back up and try again."

There are Christians who have studied God's Word and can teach us new things about Jesus to help us along the way.

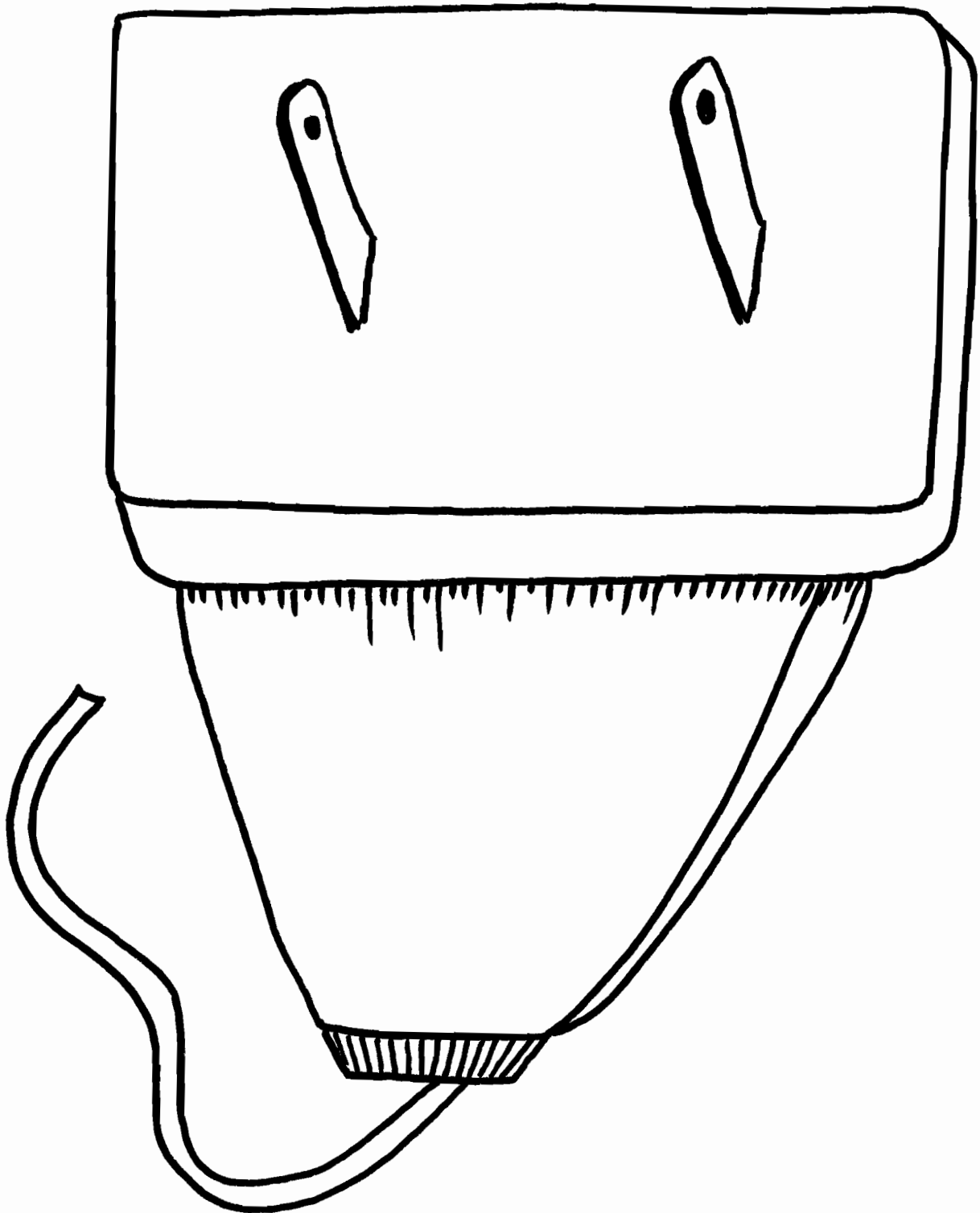
SERVE OTHERS. We talked about serving others last week. This is important In serving others we are serving Christ and are doing ourselves a big favor.

How do you feel when you do something nice for someone else? Good? You should feel good. It makes your own day happier when you reach out to someone in need.

IF THERE IS TIME GO OVER THE MEMORY VERSE UNTIL THE TIME ENDS. REVIEW VERSES FROM PAST WEEKS. THE VERSES SHOULD BE ON THE WALLS OF THE LEARNING CENTER.

Week #7: Plug In Story Time

Print words on individual plugs as you talk about each point.



LIGHTEN UP!

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: SNACK DAY!

TEACHER PREPARATION

The students will enjoy this snack time. Prepare a variety of healthy foods that you know children will enjoy.

Bring paper cups, small plates, napkins and silverware (if needed).

Set the table before the learning center group arrives. Place fresh flowers or fun center pieces (balloons, teddy bears, cars and trucks, other types of toys) along the center of the table.

Place the snack foods on platters in the middle of the table. Allow students to choose what they want.

SNACK SUGGESTIONS

There are many healthy foods that are easy to prepare.

Choose snacks you feel comfortable preparing. Here are a few suggestions to get you going:

BANANA OR BLUEBERRY OR BRAN MUFFINS, BANANAS, ORANGE SLICES (CALLED "SMILES"), PEANUT BUTTER TOAST, JELLY BREAD, DATE-NUT BREAD AND BUTTER, GRANOLA, MILK, FRUIT JUICE

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

If time allows, ask the students to wash their hands. Seat all students at the snack table.

Before snacking begins, pray for the snack and each child present.

LET THE EATING AND FRIENDLY TALK BEGIN.

Snacking will take the entire learning center time.



LIGHTEN UP!

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: BRIGHT BEADED KEY CHAIN

TEACHER PREPARATION

There are many possibilities for beading key chains. S &S arts and crafts offer kits of BEADED FISH KEY CHAINS. CRE-129. Tread beads onto pipe cleaners to create individual fish shape key chains. Pack includes assorted color tri-beads, pipe cleaners bead key chains, diagrams and instructions. Size: 4" x 2". 1991 price information: \$7.95 per pack of 24.33 cents per project S&S also offers beads by the pound (a variety of shapes and sizes) and chenille rods and bead key chains.

Your local craft and hobby shop will have beads, chains and chenille rods in stock.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Set the craft table with all supplies necessary to put the key chains together quickly. It will save time if you make individual key chain kits before class. Separate all items necessary for one completed project and place in a plastic sandwich bag.

WATCH YOUR TIME: ASK THE STUDENTS TO GET BUSY RIGHT AWAY TO ASSURE THE COMPLETION OF THEIR KEY CHAIN BEFORE THE END OF THE LEARNING CENTER.

YOUNGER STUDENTS MAY NEED ATTENTION FROM THE LEARNING CENTER HELPERS. BE SURE TO ASK ENOUGH HELPERS (ONE HELPER FOR EVERY FOUR YOUNGER STUDENTS).

OPTION: If students do not have keys to use their completed project tell them to use them as BELT CHAINS around the loop of their jeans. Girls can put theirs on a purse strap. Everyone can place them on their bike handlebars as a decoration.

Of course, they make great gifts for mom or dad!



LIFE WITH FATHER!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

TEACHER PREPARATION

This learning center deals with the peace that choosing Christ brings. We have a choice just like all people through the centuries.

Bring small items from home to represent the things people use to make themselves happy. Check out the toy box for samples of cars, dolls and houses. Cut pictures from magazines of things that make people happy for awhile. Bring real items like a radio, a pair of designer jeans (or tennis shoes).

Ask someone to tell the story as the character. OPTION: Tell the story yourself. If you ask someone to visit, be sure to give them the story and let them know they can tell it in their own words.

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 24:15 CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.

Let the staff in LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES teach this game. You have enough to do!

INTRODUCTION

Let's think for a minute or two about how people try to find happiness without the Lord. What kinds of things do people do to make themselves happy? (LET TUE STUDENTS RESPOND.)

Pass around the small items you have brought to represent the many ways people try to make themselves happy.

SOME SUGGESTIONS: Big houses, boats, the latest fashions, parties, cars, motorcycles, gambling, movies, vacations, jobs, walkman radios,



money, other people (girlfriends or boyfriends) drugs and drinking.

Some of these things make me happy. I love to look nice when I go out and I enjoy a nice home and car. There are entertaining events I have fun attending.

There are good things that make you happy too. Not everything in this world is bad.

Sometimes we make such a big emphasis on these things that we crowd the Heavenly Father right out of our happiness. The "good" overtakes the "best".

STORY TIME

Let's meet a young man who let the good overtake the best in his life. MARK 10: 17-31 tells his story.

ASK ONE OF THE MEN OF THE CHURCH TO DRESS IN HOLY LAND COSTUME AND COME TO THE LEARNING CENTER TO TELL THE STORY OF THE RICH, YOUNG RULER.

Shalom! I met the Master one day, long ago. He was walking toward Jerusalem when I spotted Him. I ran to Him shouting, "Good Teacher, what must I do to get to heaven?"

He turned to me and said, "Why do you call me good? Only God is truly good! But the answer to your question is to follow the commandments you have learned--don't kill, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat, respect your father and mother."

I thought I had wasted a trip. I was looking for peace with God. I wanted to go to heaven. I knew all these things. I was a good man. I went to synagogue, I took good care of my family, I was rich!

The Master said I had to give away my riches to the poor and follow Him.

Give away my riches! He must not have understood how much I have. I have it all! I have a magnificent home, I have all the latest clothes, a very important job and all the food I could ever desire. I have one stable for horses and another stable for camels. I cannot just “give it away.”

I would follow Him but the cost is just too great. Farewell.

THE MAN LEAVES THE ROOM SADLY.

Say: The Bible says that the man left sadly. Jesus felt genuine love for him and said to his disciples, “It’s almost impossible for the rich to get into the Kingdom of God.”

This young man was a wonderful young man. He seemed to have all the good things of life in his grasp--wealth, youth, power and a blameless character--but he had an empty heart. The young man showed that in spite of his eagerness, comfort was his supreme desire. He loved this life rather than the next.

And yet--Christ loved him. Maybe Jesus knew his special circumstances and maybe He had a greater pity for him than we can feel.

The message of Jesus is: FOLLOW ME, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT. Which will you do today?

LIFE WITH FATHER

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: MEMORY VERSE GAME

TEACHER PREPARATION

The PLUG IN STORY TIME is a busy place today so take this opportunity to teach today's memory verse as a game.

Plan two different activities for readers and non-readers.

YOUNGER STUDENTS (NON READERS): Shorten the verse.
JOSHUA 24:15 CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL
SERVE.

Divide the group into two teams.

Review all the verses learned so far to get the players ready to perform.

Set up the activity area as a baseball diamond. Bring a plastic bat, nerf ball and bases (paper, taped to the floor if you are indoors).

Station a teen or adult helper at each base--if you have enough help.

Pitch the ball to the batter. (For the very young, forget the bat. Let them catch the ball.) When the batter reaches first base he/she must say the verse and reference to the helper before going to the next base. If he/she cannot, it is an OUT.

THREE OUTS AND THE NEXT TEAM IS UP TO BAT.

MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT BY USING ALL THE VERSES
LEARNED SO FAR. YOU GIVE THE REFERENCE THE PLAYER
MUST SAY THE VERSE.

OLDER STUDENTS (READERS): Print one word of today's verse on



each slip of paper. Place all the papers in a brown bag and mix or shake them thoroughly.

Students must pick one word out of the bag and stand in a spot at one end of the room where they think that word fits in the verse.

The next student chooses a word and picks his spot

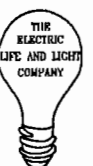
Continue until all words have been chosen and the verse is properly in place.

If you do not have enough students, place the words on the floor and choose until they complete the verse.

JOSHUA 24:15 CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.

OPTION: Place all the verses learned so far in separate bags and continue the review until time runs out in the learning center.

The students may word individually or in teams--your choice.



LIFE WITH FATHER

***CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: PAPER CLIP
NECKLACE***

TEACHER PREPARATION

Purchase lots of paper clips and a variety of colored plastic tape (1 inch width).

Make a necklace before class to show everyone how it is done.

SUPPLIES: Paper clips, plastic tape, scissors, plates for the clips.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Place the paper clips on plates in the middle of the craft table. Place the tape on the table with scissors nearby.

Make a long string of paper clips by slipping one into the end of another.

Cut colored plastic tape into pieces about 1 ½ inches long.

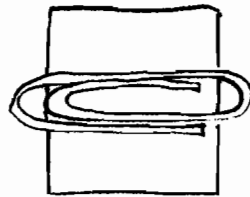
Wrap one piece around each paper clip and press it tight.

Connect the ends of the paper clip string and you have a colorful necklace.

OPTION: Allow the older students and boys to decide what they make of the paper clips. Examples: Tennis shoe decorations, belt loop decorations, belt

Week #8: Candlepower Craft

Paper Clip Necklace



Visual of surrounding clip with tape.



String the paper clips first and then wrap them in the colorful tape.

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: DOING MORE THAN JESUS

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring one candle to light during the introduction.

Read the FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND story from Matthew 14:13-21 and Luke 9:10-17.

If desired, bring dinner rolls to break into small pieces and pass around the group. There are crackers shaped like fish. Pass these around to the entire group.

MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 14:12 ... HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO SHALL HE DO ALSO; AND GREATER WORKS THAN SHALL HE DO; BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER.

YOUNGER STUDENTS: JOHN 14:12 ... AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE SHALL HE DO...

INTRODUCTION

Let me explain something to you. We have been using the term CANDLEPOWER each week for our quickie craft time. Do you know what candlepower actually means?

It is a scientific term often used by photographers. (LIGHT ONE CANDLE) One Candlepower is the amount of light given off by one candle. If you have 1000 Candlepower, it is the concentrated light of 1000 candles a foot away.

You and I are like one candle. We seem so small in this huge world. We cannot possibly do much for the Lord, can we?



--Oh, yes we can! Jesus said it Himself in today's memory verse, "He who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also: and greater works shall he do: because I go to the Father."

Can you imagine doing the same things that Jesus did? What are some of the things Jesus did while He was on earth? (LET THE STUDENTS RESPOND.) Here are a few things but there are many more we could think of: He was kind, never sinned, talked to people with authority from God, healed people, directed them toward heaven, made people happy, gave peace.

When we are alone, we feel small. We must believe we have power sent from God. It helps when there are more people who believe and trust in the Lord to do great things on earth. Then we become like 1000 candlepower. We are so bright that no one can ignore us.

I think our memory verse today is a precious promise. Jesus didn't say that maybe we would do greater things than He. He said we WILL do greater things than He.

The wonderful technology at our fingertips helps us do great things for the Lord. We live in a time when cars, airplanes, telephones, television, radio, computers and knowledge can be used to spread the good news of Jesus.

Jesus had to walk everywhere He went He did not have a telephone. He could not appear on the evening news to tell the world He's our Savior.

STORY TIME

Jesus was tired. He got into a boat and went to a lonely place. He was so popular with the people that they found out where He was. They followed him on foot. The Bible says about 5000 men plus women and children went tramping through the desert to find Jesus.

Even though Jesus was tired He welcomed the crowd. He lovingly healed the sick folks who had made the trip. He sat with everyone and talked to them about the kingdom of heaven. He taught and they learned.



It began to get dark and the disciples advised Jesus to let them walk to nearby towns to find lodging for the night. The disciples knew that it would be dangerous sleeping in the desert. Besides, they had no food for such a large group.

Someone shared five loaves of bread and two small fishes. That is not a lot of food, especially when there are 5000 hungry people to feed. This it one, small light' turned into a sharing miracle.

(BEGIN TO PASS THE PIECES OF ROLL AND FISH CRACKERS AS YOU TELL THE STORY.) Jesus prayed over the small lunch and passed it to the people. The disciples kept handing food to person after person.

The funniest thing happened--everyone was fed! How did this happen? The Bible doesn't explain fully but we know that the disciples picked up twelve baskets of left overs when the meal was done.

Now tell me, what would have happened if the original five loaves and two fishes had not been shared? (LET THE STUDENTS RESPOND.) Perhaps Jesus would not have fed so many. Scripture says that sometimes when people did not believe in Jesus, He did not do many miracles.

Your light counts. Jesus said so. Believe it. When you do you will do things that are greater than Jesus had the opportunity to do. If we work as a team just think of the bright, shining light that will shout JESUS LOVES YOU to the world!

OPTIONAL CONCLUSION: If the students know the song THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE sing it to close the learning center.



THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: GARBAGE BAG BALL

TEACHER PREPARATION

This game is really fun! Take time to prepare the "ball" and watch everyone enjoy this learning center.

Take a large plastic garbage bag and fill it full of blown up balloons. Tie the garbage bag at the top. This becomes the GARBAGE BAG BALL.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Say: Today we are thinking about the opportunities we have to do great things for the Lord. We have one light to shine for Him. When we work together, we can be the brightest lights the world will ever see. That takes teamwork.

You must work hard as a team member in the game we will play. If you do, your entire team will be rewarded.

Divide the group into two teams. Everyone takes off shoes. One team forms a circle facing inward on their knees. The other team lies on their backs, heads toward the center.

The ball is then tossed into the circle. The object is for the kids on their backs to kick or hit the ball out of the circle, over the heads of the kids in the outer circle.

The outer circle tries to keep it in play. If the ball is kicked over a player's head in the outer circle, then he must take the person's place in the inner circle. Play for as long as you wish.

OPTION: Instead of one player taking another's place in the inner circle, set a time limit. All points made by the inner circle kicking successes are theirs to keep within that time limit.

*After the time limit the outer circle team takes over the inner circle. It is now their turn to team points by kicking the ball over the outer circle.

*Give small prizes to everyone. Example: Two Hershey kisses to the winning team and one Hershey kiss to the losing team.



THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: LIGHT NAPKIN RINGS

TEACHER PREPARATION

Make copies of the patterns so students will have the opportunity to make enough rings for each family member.

Determine how much time will be available for students during the learning center. You may want to cut the rings before class. It may be best to cut the designs before class.

Spread all rings and designs around the table before students enter the learning center.

SUPPLIES: Rings, designs, glue, stapler, glitter, markers, paper napkins.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Show the student a completed napkin ring. Allow them to make enough for their family.

The students will decorate the ring with markers. They may draw on it and place the person's name on the ring.

They will glue or staple one design to the center of the ring strip after the strip has been formed into a circle. They may decorate the design with markers or glitter.

The last step should be gluing the design over the stapled edge of the ring to hide the work.

Allow the glue to dry completely.

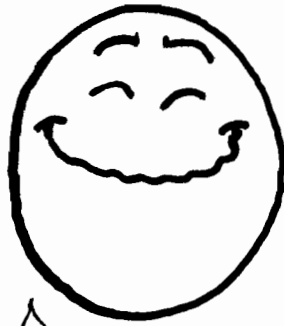
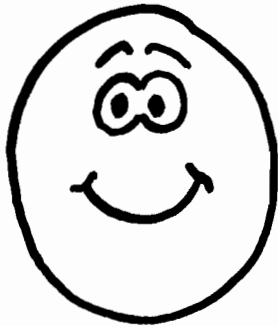
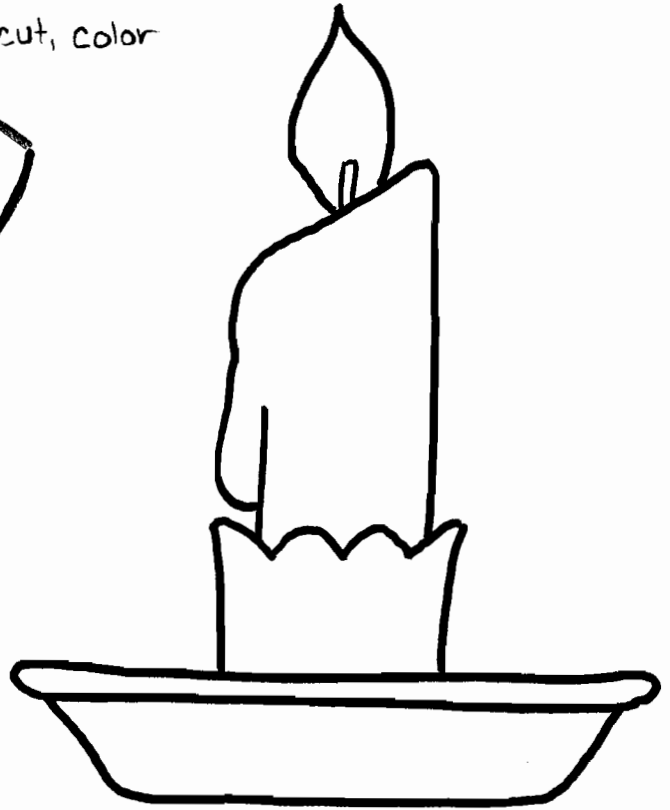
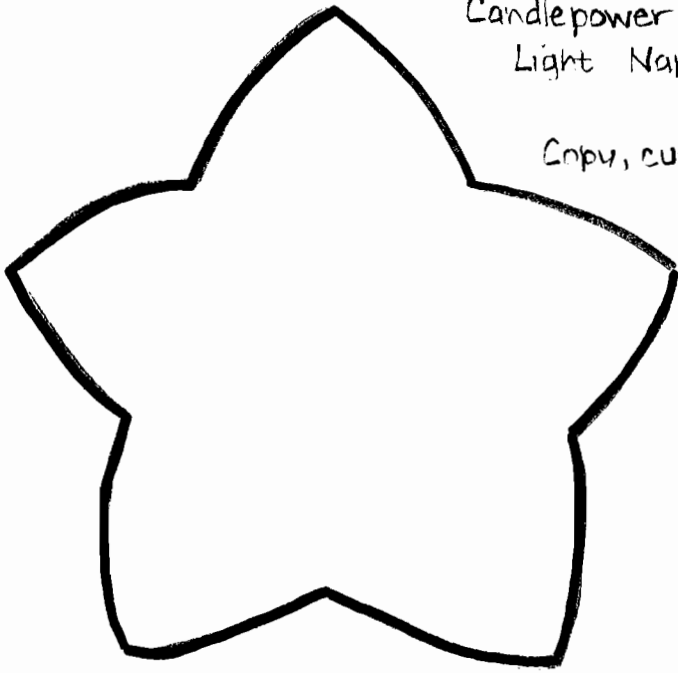
(GLUE TAKES TIME TO DRY SO STAPLING MAY WORK WELL IN THE QUICK LEARNING CENTER TIME PERIOD.)

Fold a paper napkin and place in each napkin ring.

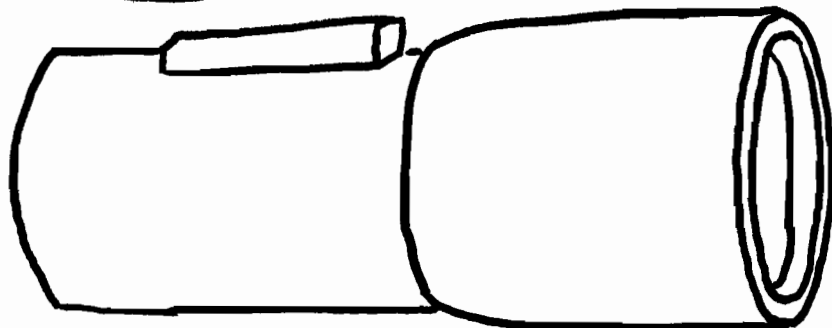


Candlepower Crafts: Week #9
Light Napkin Ring Designs

Copy, cut, color

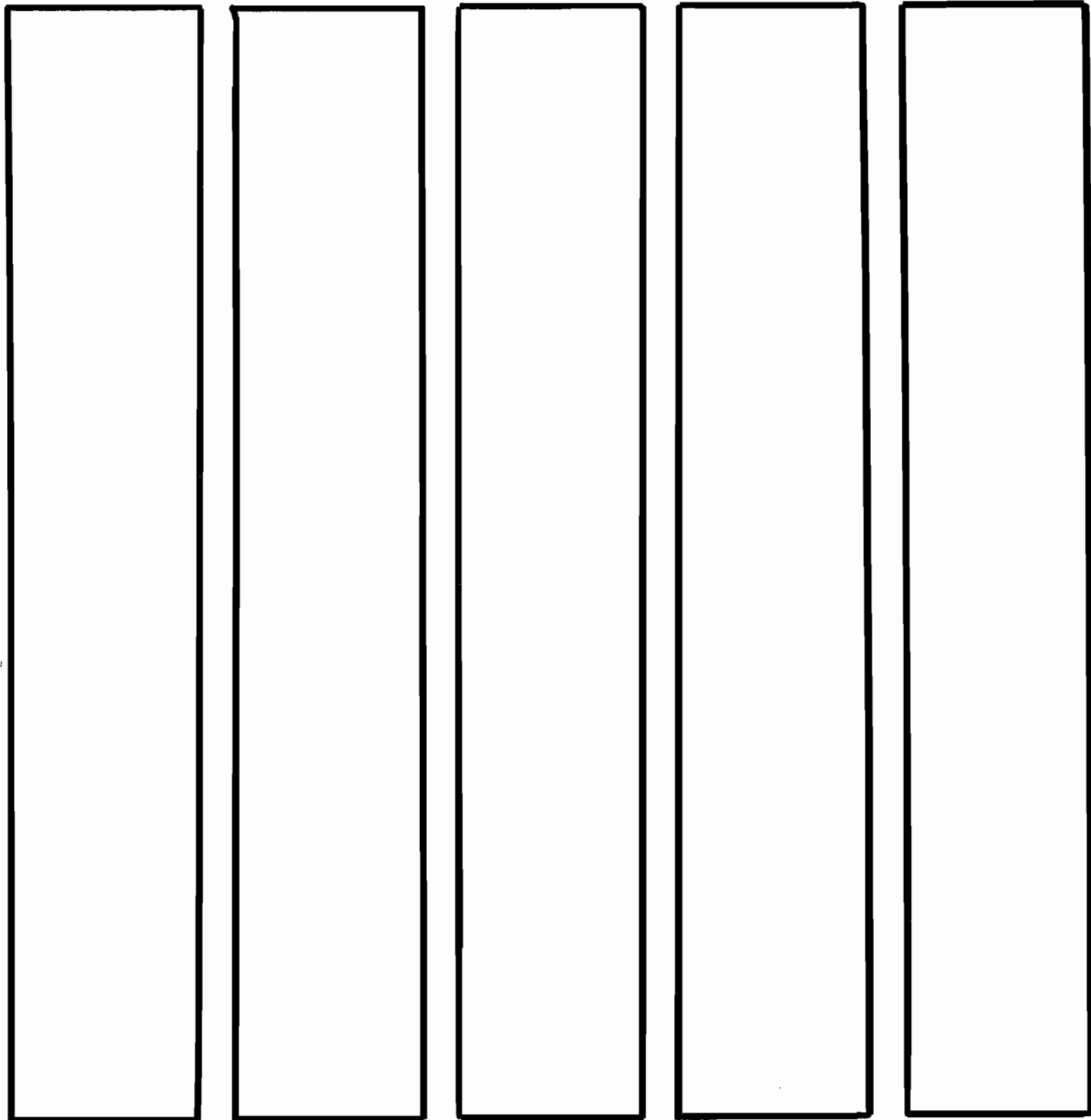


Option: Design your own ring center. A circle with a sticker may be nice for the youngest students.



Candle power Crafts: Week #9
Light Napkin Rings

Copy and cut out these Ring strips. Each strip is one napkin ring. See Design pattern for completion of project.



Place the design over the glued (or stapled) edge to hide the work.



KEEP IT LIGHT!

PLUG IN STORY TIME: TEMPTATIONS

TEACHER PREPARATION

Today's learning center will impress upon the students the ease of sin and the trickiness of temptation.

Bring a brown paper bag filled with assorted secret goodies (Bubble gum, m&m's, candy bars, licorice, etc.)

Color and cut the three apples provided as visual aids. Place on a nearby wall as you tell the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

MEMORY VERSE

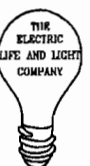
I CORINTHIANS 10:13B ... GOD WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE; BUT WILL WITH THE TEMPTATION MAKE A WAY OF ESCAPE THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.

YOUNGER STUDENTS: I CORINTHIANS 10:13b ... GOD WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE.

INTRODUCTION

Temptation is a big word. If you don't know what it means you probably do know that it has something to do with sin and disappointing God. I want you to understand that temptation is NOT sin. The Bible tells us that all of us are tempted but unless we actually act upon the thought, it is not sin.

Let's see if I can tempt you. I have a surprise for each of you. It's fattening and is not very good for you but it sure is fun! Do you want one? Oh come on--no one will know you ate this before lunch. It will be our little secret!



PASS THE BAG AROUND AND LET EACH STUDENT PULL OUT ONE PIECE OF BUBBLE GUM OR BAG OF M&M'S OR CANDY BAR. ALLOW THEM TO EAT THEIR TEMPTATION AS YOU TALK.

Temptation is tricky. It seems so nice for awhile but sometimes ends up hurting us. What would happen if you were tempted to pull out a handful of goodies and gobble them down as quick as possible. (LET THE STUDENTS RESPOND.) I guess you would pay for your sin with a stomach ache.

Now I'm going to tempt you to DO the wrong thing. Let's play a quick game of SIMON SAYS. We will see how tricky I can be. (PLAY FOR A FEW MINUTES--ELIMINATING STUDENTS AS THEY MAKE MISTAKES.)

STORY TIME

We are not the only ones to be tempted. Jesus was tempted too. We are told about it in Matthew 4. The same Satan that tempted Jesus tempts us to do and think things we should not. He's still at it today but Jesus still wins the battle each time.

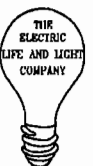
TEMPTATION TO THE BODY: Jesus was led by the Spirit of God to the desert He prayed and fasted for forty days. Fasting means no eating. It doesn't sound like a fun party to me!

When He was very hungry, Satan came to Him with a temptation. He said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Jesus replied, "It is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

Our bodies need food and water to live. Was it wrong for Jesus to want to eat? No, of course not. Satan was using His physical need to cause Him to perform a miracle that was against what God would want.

Jesus was too smart for him. He knew He could change stones to bread but He also knew He did not have to prove anything to Satan, including the fact that He was the Son of God.



Even today Satan uses our physical needs to tempt us to sin. He cleverly puts the thought into our mind to eat too much, drink too much, have sex before we're ready, take drugs, or hurt our bodies when we know better than to do it

We need to know the rules of keeping ourselves physically in tune with the Lord. When temptations come to hurt our bodies, we must be smart enough to say "NO!"

TEMPTATION TO THE MIND: Satan took Jesus into Jerusalem and stood Him on one of the top corners of the temple. He said, "If You are the Son of God throw yourself down: for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge concerning You, and on their hands they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus replied, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

Satan wanted Jesus to prove He had faith in God. He wanted Jesus to do something spectacular to prove Himself to the nation of Israel. Jesus would not do one thing to put himself outside the will of His Heavenly Father.

Students, I want you to remember to trust God even though you may not see spectacular miracles. Jesus will meet your needs in the quiet places and sometimes surprise you along the way.

TEMPTATION OF THE SOUL: Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

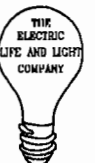
Jesus said, "Begone Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord Your God, and serve Him only.'"

Please notice that the kingdoms of the world did not belong to Satan. They were not his to give away.

Jesus had come to save men, not simply to rule them. Satan's way required no suffering and death, but Jesus chose God's way, the way of the cross.

We cannot follow Satan's way either. God made a plan for salvation through Jesus Christ. If we try to get around God's plan we will fail and lose our soul.

These three areas are the only areas where Satan can tempt He's tricky and can make sin look like so much fun. Don't be fooled. Know for yourself what is right and what





is wrong. Listen to your parents, teachers, pastor and Sunday School teachers. Read your Bible and pray so you know right from wrong. If you do these things, you will not sin.

When temptation comes you will have the knowledge and courage and power to resist

WHEN YOU SIN: Oops! There are times when we fail the Lord. We listen to the clever thoughts of Satan and actually turn the temptation into sin. When that happens, hurry and ask for God's forgiveness. It is wonderful that each of us can make our hearts right with God so easily.

Don't let bunches of sins build up in your life. As soon as you know you have sinned, ask forgiveness. Do not wait even one minute!

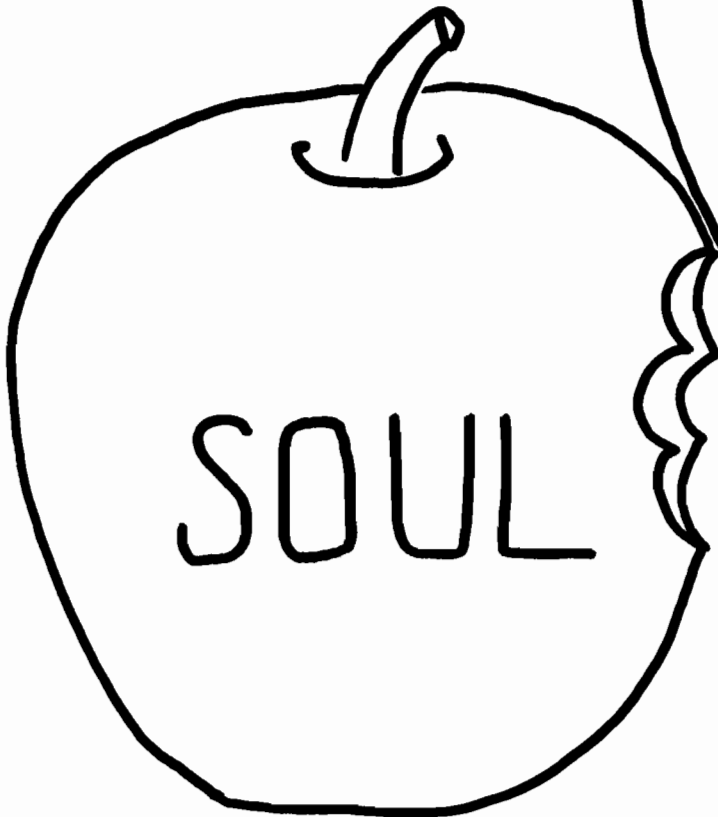
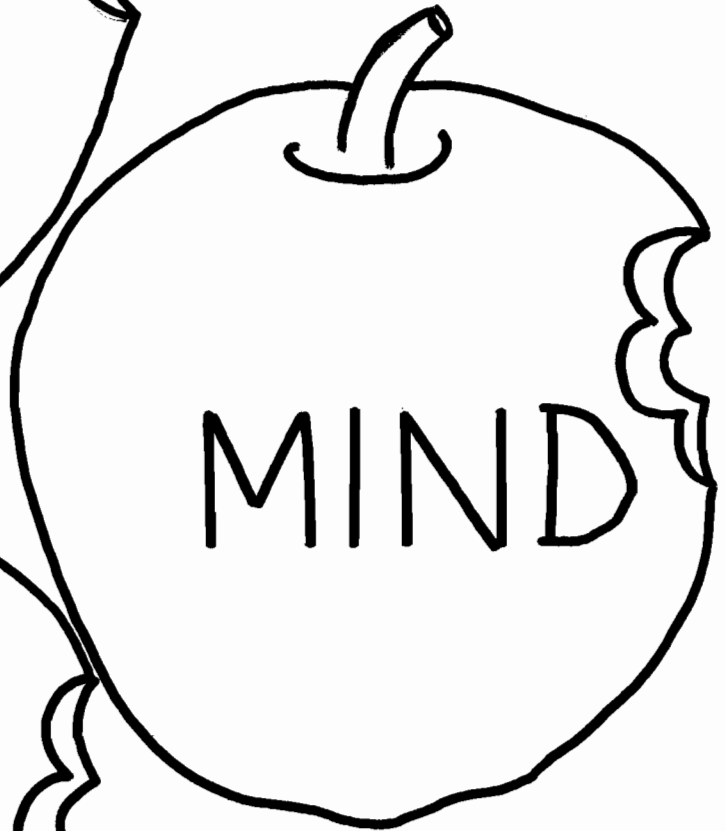
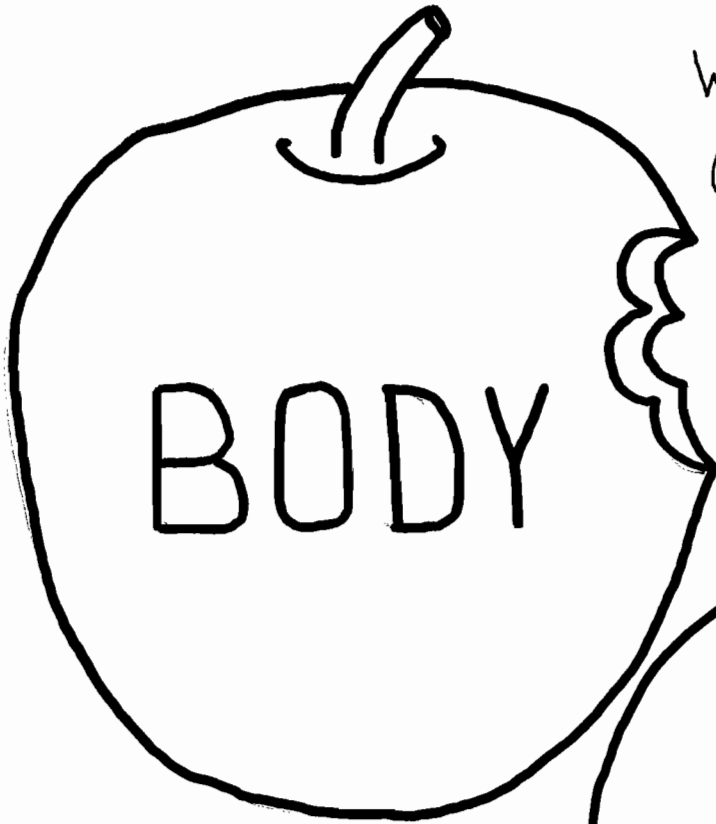
Being a Christian is special. We have power that other people do not have. We have a friend in Jesus who wants us to live in the way of our Heavenly Father.

Let's say today's verse together. (SAY THE VERSE IN UNISON. SHORTEN IT FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS.)



Week #10: Plug-In Storytime

Cut, Color, use as visual aids during storytime.



KEEP IT LIGHT

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: SNACK DAY

TEACHER PREPARATION

Purchase apples, cheese and crackers to serve during this learning center. Cut the cheese into cubes at home to save time.

Cut the apples just before the students arrive to keep them white and fresh.

Provide cups of juice and napkins for the snack.

Cover the tables with white paper tablecloths. Print the verse on the paper and bring markers for students to make graffiti of their own at the end of snack time.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He was very hungry. He could have sinned--and who would have blamed Him. But Jesus did not sin. He was tempted and resisted Satan.

Today as you eat your snack, remember what Jesus did for you even when it was hard.

Allow the students to eat their snacks and talk quietly together through the learning center time.

OPTION: Cover the snack table with white paper table cloths. Print today's verse in large black marker on the paper. When they are done with their snack, let them practice the verse.

I CORINTHIANS 10:13B ... GOD WILL NOT TEMPT YOU ABOVE WHAT YOU ARE ABLE; BUT WILL MAKE A WAY OF ESCAPE THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.

YOUNGER STUDENTS: I CORINTHIANS 10:13B ... GOD WILL NOT TEMPT YOU ABOVE WHAT YOU ARE ABLE.

Let the students sign messages, names, pictures all over the tablecloth.



KEEP IT LIGHT

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: CHRISTIAN TIN PUNCH

TEACHER PREPARATION

There are three options available for this craft suggestion. Whichever you choose, have all pieces of this project purchased before the day of the learning center.

OPTION #1: S &S Arts and Crafts catalog offers kits for tin punch projects. CRE-35-- Christian Tin Punch. Inspirational plaques require just a household hammer. Pack includes fluted tin plaques, patterns for 4 different designs, wire, nails and instructions. Size: 9". 1991 pricing information: \$11.89 per pack of 8.

OPTION #2: Purchase supplies at your local craft store. Supplies needed: tin plaques (you choose the size), nails, bars of soap, small hammers. (See small pattern suggestions included with this lesson plan.)

Small tin (aluminum) ash trays are perfect for this project. They are very inexpensive and come in packages of 25-50-100. Check the store in your area which sells party supplies or restaurant supplies.

OPTION #3: Instead of tin, use small blocks of wood cut by someone from your church. Sizes may vary. Students will sand their block, punch the pattern with a nail and small hammer so that a small indentation is made in the wood surface, stain the wood with small piece of cloth and wood stain.

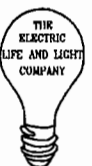
WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Have all parts of the projects at the individual seats before students enter the learning center.

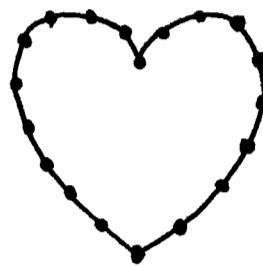
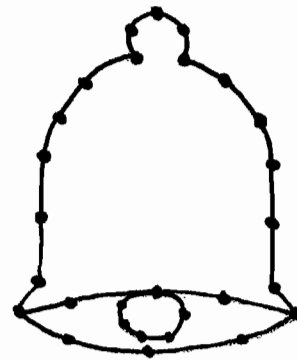
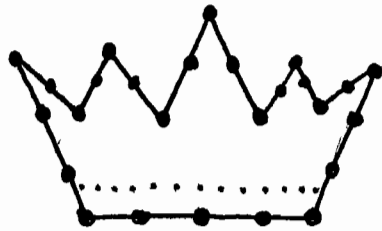
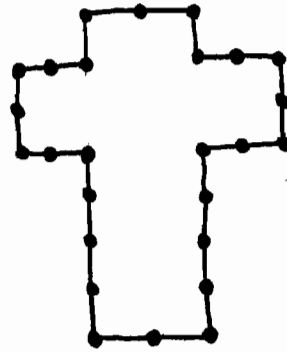
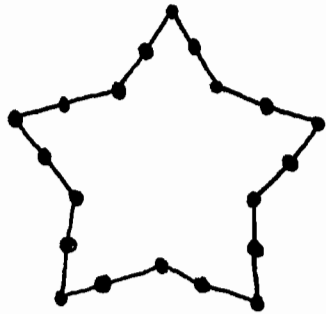
The students will begin by placing a pattern copy on their tin or wood. They will punch a hole through the tin into the small block of soap placed under the tin (to protect the table.)

When the holes are punched, be sure the student's name is on the back of the project (Use masking tape for visibility.)

IF DESIRED, CUT SMALL PIECES OF RIBBON (APPROXIMATELY 6"). STUDENTS MAY LOOP THE RIBBON AND HAVE IT HOT GLUED TO THE BACK FOR HANGING.



Week #10: Candlepower Crafts Tin Punch Patterns



Enlarge or reduce patterns if needed to fit your tin or wood piece. If using tin, back project with bar of soap to punch nail into a safe, smooth surface.

See complete instructions in lesson plan.

LIFE AFTER LIFE

PLUG IN STORY TIME: CLUB CHRISTIAN

TEACHER PREPARATION

Today's learning center will focus on heaven and the hope Christian's have.

If available, play Amy Grant's taped song, "Angels Watchin' Over Me". If not available, find any other song about heaven that the students would enjoy hearing during the introduction.

MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 14:2 IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS, IF IT WERE NOT SO I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

INTRODUCTION

Listen with me to a song about heaven. (PLAY THE SONG YOU HAVE PREPARED.)

I love to think about heaven. It's a very exclusive Club you know. Only certain people will get to go there. Those people are called CHRISTIANS --FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY.

What do you think heaven will look like? (LET THE STUDENTS RESPOND.) Our memory verse today gives a hint--let's learn it together.

While we do not know exactly what heaven looks like, we know it is full of light. Jesus and the angels are preparing it right now so when we go there will be wonders to behold that we could never imagine.

STORY TIME

One day Jesus was talking to His disciples. They knew their time with Jesus was short and they were afraid. Jesus told them some things to make them feel better and Jesus wants us to know about LIFE AFTER LIFE by reading His words. Let's look at them:

JOHN 14:1-4 LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED; BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME. IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY DWELLING PLACES; IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU; FOR I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU. AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN, AND RECEIVE YOU TO MYSELF; THAT



WHERE I AM, THERE YOU MAY BE ALSO. AND YOU KNOW THE WAY WHERE I AM GOING.

These are precious promises from the mouth of Jesus. He came as a light in our dark world and before He went to the cross He told us there is more to come.

Our bodies will die but the part of us that laughs and cries, thinks and feels, will live on forever.

As Christians, we will get to live forever in heaven with Jesus. Some people go to heaven when they are very old. Others go when they are very young. We never know when it is time to begin our "eternal life".

Jesus wants us to be ready all the time. He's the "Man with the Plan", remember? We must trust Jesus to protect us through life and prepare us for living in heaven with Him.

STAR QUESTIONS ABOUT HEAVEN: Make stars and place them on the floor question side up. The Bible answers to the questions will be on the reverse side. Allow the students to interact with each question (WATCH YOUR TIME!) SEE STAR PATTERN INCLUDED WITH LESSON PLAN.

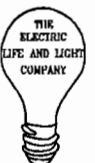
WHERE IS HEAVEN? ISAIAH 55:9-11. The Bible speaks of heaven as being above the earth. Frequently the Bible mentions "thunder from heaven" (I Samuel 2:10), "clouds of heaven"(Psalm 147:8), "the four winds of the heavens" (Zech. 2:6,6:5), "fire from heaven" (Genesis 19:24). The planets, sun and moon are mentioned too and the Hebrew people were forbidden to worship stars and planets.

God has created a specific place for us but hasn't exactly told us WHERE The Bible speaks of men of God looking forward to a "City whose maker and ruler is God." (Hebrews 11: 13-16)

Heaven is wherever God is. We know it will be heaven to spend eternity with the Lord. It will be more beautiful and wonderful than we can imagine.

WHEN DOES OUR TRIP TO HEAVEN BEGIN? The Bible tells us that heaven begins when we make the decision to follow Jesus as Lord.

Philippians 3:20-21 mentions Christians who have a citizenship in heaven and wait for Jesus who will change us and make us perfect



WHO LIVES IN HEAVEN? God--although He is everywhere in the universe as well. (Isaiah 57:15)

Jesus--Jesus IS God. Jesus is our Savior--God come to man. Jesus returned to heaven when He arose from the grave. The Bible tells us He sits at the "right hand of God." (The Holy Spirit is the part of God who remains on earth in each Christian helping us live Godly lives.)

Angels--The Bible says a lot about angels. Sometimes we know their specific names like Gabriel or Michael. The angels came from heaven to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. They assist God in ways we do not understand right now. The Bible calls them "ministering spirits". (Hebrews 1: 14)

Christians--The Bible tells us that Jesus came to earth to provide a way for people to have sins forgiven so we can go to heaven. There is only one way to get to heaven--by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. People do not get there by being good, doing good deeds or by wishing or hoping they are good enough to go there.

Each of us must ask Jesus to come into our life through prayer. It is the only way to heaven and it is the one thing each of us must do for ourselves. Our parents or grandparents cannot make this decision for us. It is something we must DO! --not just think about for awhile.

In fact, let's pray right now. If you have NEVER asked Jesus into your life, this is a great time. If you have prayed this prayer before, you do not have to do it again. Jesus comes to stay when we invite Him.

DEAR JESUS, THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME. FORGIVE ALL MY SINS AND COME INTO MY LIFE TO STAY. HELP ME LIVE A LIFE PLEASING TO YOU. I KNOW THAT YOU DIED FOR ME. I WILL TRUST IN YOU ALL MY LIFE AMEN.

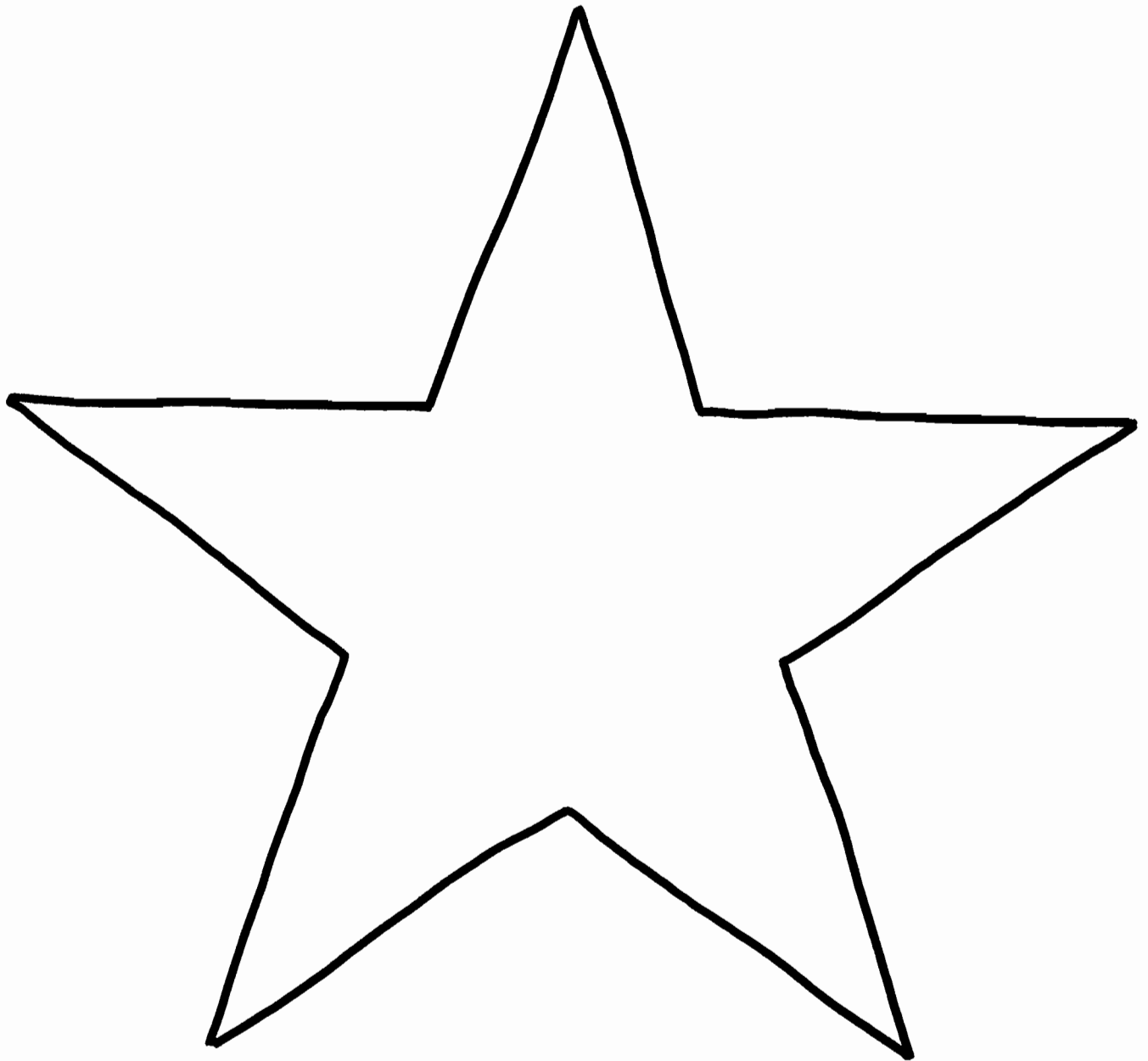
If you prayed that prayer, you are now a Christian headed for Heaven! Wow! What a party we will have when we all get there.



Week #11: Plug In Story time

Make 3 stars. Follow the instructions in the lesson plan to print a question on one side and answer on the other side.

Decorate with glitter.



LIFE AFTER LIFE

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: HEAVEN SONG DAY

TEACHER PREPARATION

Music people will be needed for this learning center. A music leader and pianist will teach students one or two songs about heaven.

The choice of music is yours. There are many great songs for kids about heaven. Check your local Christian bookstore for a song that would be fun to learn.

Here are a few suggestions to get you going:

"HEAVEN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE" found in **Psalty's Super Songbook**, Maranatha Music, Word, Inc. Waco, Tx. 76796, page 18.

"JOHN 3:16", "SOON AND VERY SOON", "THE NEW 23RD", "WHISPER A PRAYER", "YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW" found in **Sing A Song of Scripture**, Lillenas Publishing Co., Kansas City, MO. 64141.

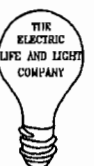
"IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE" found in **Pick A Pack of Praise**, Lillenas Publishing Co., Kansas City, MO. 64141.

The song "In My Father's House" is a good one for all age groups. It is simple to teach because of the repetition of the words yet the tune is catchy and memorable.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Take all learning center groups to the music area for this session.

Seat the students together. Teach the song until everyone can do it well. Plan to sing it during the OPENING next week.



LIFE AFTER LIFE

***CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: THE ELECTRIC
LIGHT AND LIFE
COMPANY BULLETIN BOARD***

TEACHER PREPARATION

Choose bulletin board space somewhere in the church. If a real bulletin board is not available, make a spot using construction paper as background and a thin paper strip border.

This will be a nice recognition spot for all the students and teachers who have been participating in the Sunday School program.

If desired, use the space as a giant invitation to Week #13's party.

SUPPLIES: Construction paper for one background color, stapler or tape, candles to cut and color, scissors, markers.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Seat the students at tables in the learning center. Each student will cut and color their own candle to become a part of the bulletin board.

When their candle is done, they must print their name on it.

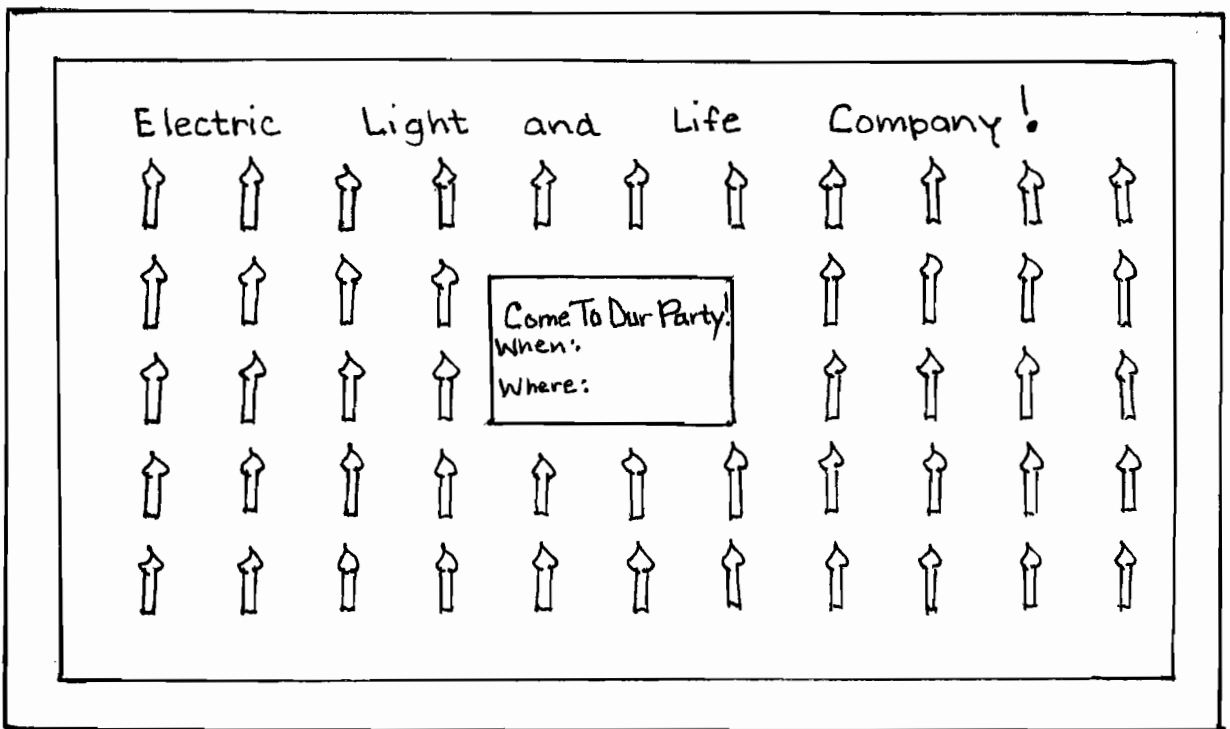
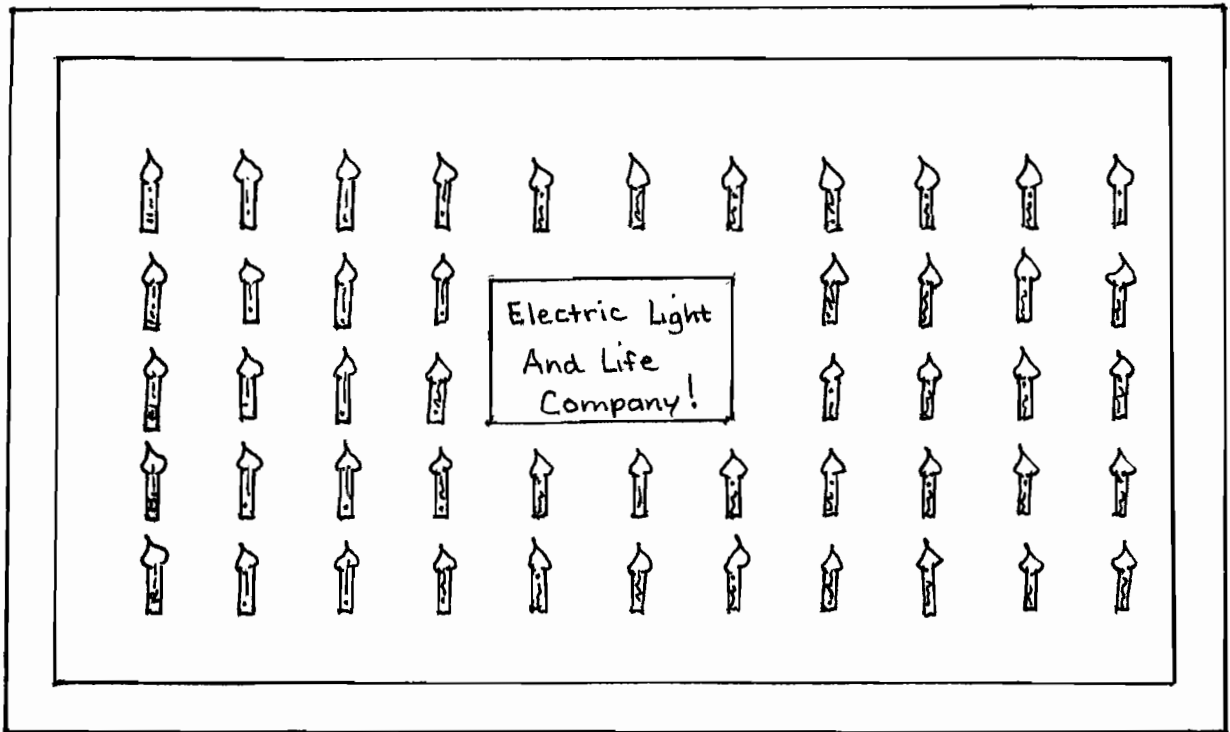
They may take their candle to the bulletin board and place it anywhere they want in the allotted space.

OLDER STUDENTS: Ask the older students to make their own candle and print some of the memory verses on other candles.

If the bulletin board will be a party invitation, ask a few students to print the invitation information on a piece of construction paper. The invitation should be the center of the bulletin board.

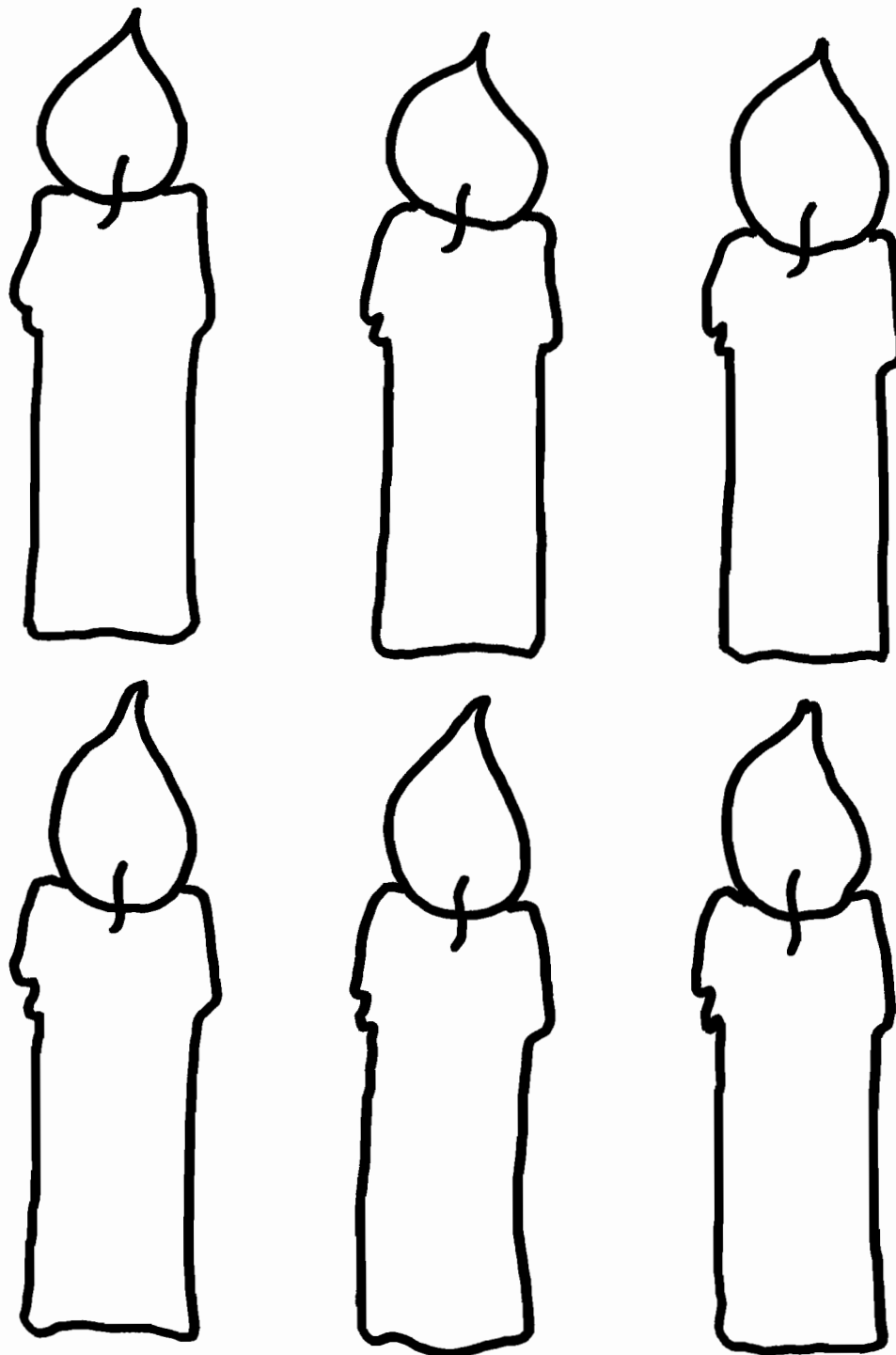
SEE THE PATTERN ENCLOSED AND PICTURE SAMPLES FOR THE BULLETIN BOARD.

Week #11: Candlepower Crafts
Bulletin Board Samples



Week #11: Candlepower Crafts

Candle patterns - Copy one per student.



Make copies for printing memory verses.

REFLECTIONS OF THE LIGHT

PLUG IN STORY TIME: SPEAK OUT!

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring lots of mirrors to place around the room. Bring a flashlight.

Copy and cut Africa patterns to help teach the conclusion.

MEMORY VERSE

MARK 16:15 NASB. GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION.

INTRODUCTION

Look at all the mirrors I brought with me today. Let's look at ourselves and figure out what we see.

I think we see all the normal things that a human has. We all have hair, eyes, noses, teeth, chins, ears and maybe freckles.

But--is there more to behold in the mirror? Can we look inside ourselves? Open your mouth. Can you see down to your heart? No? Well, it was worth a try.

Today's lesson is called REFLECTIONS OF THE LIGHT. We know that Jesus is "the Light". Today we learn that we are the reflections.

What happens when I hold this flashlight up to the mirror? (The light reflects onto the wall.) We are like the reflected light. We shine through the glory of the Lord.

STORY

Today's story teaches us to tell others about this wonderful Light. Once we become Christians, we shine for Jesus wherever we go. People see that we are different. Maybe they notice small things about us. They may mention how odd it is that we don't swear, smoke, take drugs, dress in skimpy clothes, stay out late, hate our



parents--and " my-oh-my" --we go to church! They are looking at the things we do or do not do. They may not even hear the name of Jesus but they know we are different.

There are words to tell about Jesus the Light People through the centuries have spoken the words to help others become Christians.

(SEE ACTS 8:4-40 LB) The first Christians were hurt badly and killed by people who did not believe in Jesus. Many of them ran away to the hills while others remained and went around telling people about Jesus, the Messiah. One of these people was a man named Philip.

People listened intently to what he had to say because of the miracles he did. There was much joy among people who were healed.

One day God spoke to Philip through an angel. " Go over to the road that runs from Jerusalem through the Gaza Desert, arriving around noon." So he did, and who should be coming down the road but the Treasurer of Ethiopia, Africa.

This Ethiopian had gone to the temple in Jerusalem and was returning in his chariot, reading aloud from the Old Testament book, Isaiah. He probably bought it as a souvenir of his visit.

Philip ran over and heard what he was reading and asked, "Do you understand it?"

"Of course not", the man replied. "How can I when there is no one to teach me?" And he begged Philip to come up into the chariot and sit with him.

The scripture he had been reading was about Jesus being crucified. He didn't get it. He wondered if Isaiah was talking about himself or someone else. (Isaiah 53:7)

So Philip began with this question and used lots of scripture to tell him about Jesus.

As they rode along, they came to a small body of water. The Ethiopian said, "Look, water! Why can't I be baptized?"

You can," Philip answered, "if you believe with all your heart."

The Ethiopian replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

He stopped the chariot and they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.



CONCLUSION

Copy and cut out the Africa pattern to help teach the conclusion. Print the following qualities on each pattern.

PREPARED: Philip was prepared to talk to anyone he met He knew the Lord and he knew the Bible.

EXCITED: Philip was excited about knowing Jesus. Here was a message to be shared!

BRAVE: Philip was not afraid of what anyone thought of him. He knew the truth and told it.

OBEDIENT: Philip obeyed God. After all, doesn't it seem odd to be told to walk into the desert without knowing why?

Philip reflected the light of Jesus wherever he went The people in Ethiopia call him PHILIP THE EVANGELIST. They consider him to be the first person to bring the gospel to the continent of Africa.

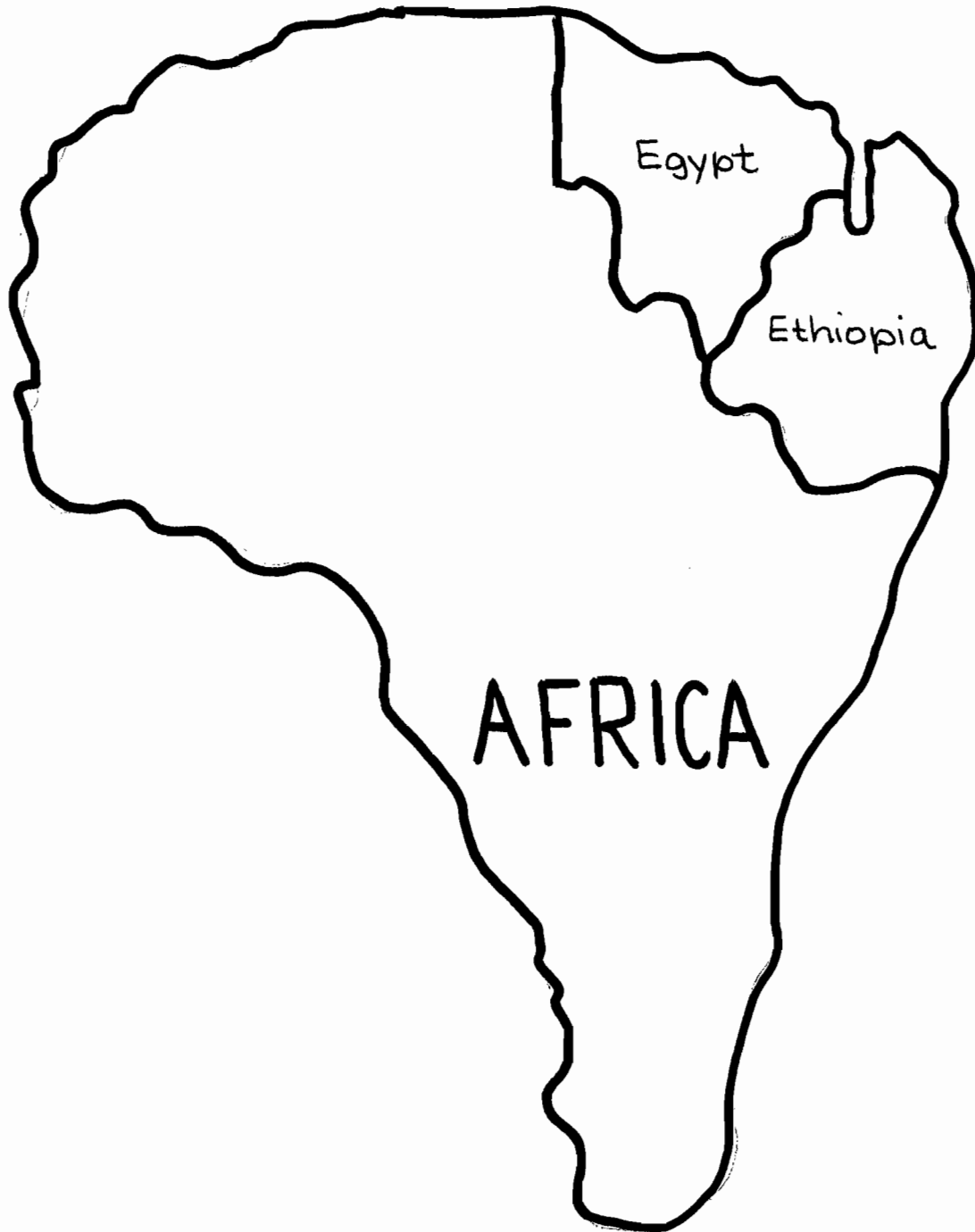
Think of the millions of African people who have met the Messiah through the years because of Philip reflecting the light of Jesus.

Be like Philip the Evangelist. Reflect the Light of Jesus wherever you go for your whole life.



Week #12: Plug In Storytime

Cut out 4 Africa's and print Philip's qualities on them for the Conclusion portion of the lesson.



REFLECTIONS OF THE LIGHT

LIGHTNING FUN AND GAMES: PASS IT ON

TEACHER PREPARATION

Bring lots of common objects of various sizes to pass around the circle.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

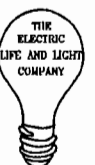
Tell the students, "Today we are talking about passing the word about Jesus to others who will pass it on to others who will pass it on to others--and on and on. Let's play a fun game to see how well we pass things."

The group forms one circle. Everyone is given an object that can be large, small, or any shape (a bowling ball, a trash can, a shoe, etc.). At the signal, everyone passes his object to the person on his right, keeping the objects moving at all times.

When a person drops any object, he is out but his object remains in.

As the game progresses, more people leave the game, making it harder and harder to avoid dropping an object because there becomes more objects than people very quickly.

The winner is the last person to drop out **PLAY THE GAME SEVERAL TIMES, UNTIL TIME IS DONE.**



REFLECTIONS OF THE LIGHT

CANDLEPOWER CRAFTS: KALEIDOSCOPE OR SWEET SCULPTURE

TEACHER PREPARATION

Send for the S&S arts and crafts catalog project that comes complete with all parts to make a kaleidoscope.

Catalog description (from the 1991 Masterbook): GP-50 Kaleidoscope. Light..Color ... Action! As Kaleidoscope turns, get ready for a display of moving colors! No glass for added safety. Pack includes long and short tubes, cardboard discs, clear and frosted vinyl circles, tape, beads, straws, silver acetate and bilingual instructions. Size 6 3/4". 1991 Pricing information: \$18.49 per pack of 25. Individual project costs 74 cents.

WHEN THE STUDENTS ARRIVE

Have all parts for individual kaleidoscopes at student seats. Help younger students as much as you need to have them complete their project in the allotted time.

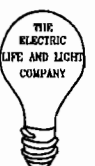
Be sure you have enough willing helpers to make the steps go quickly.

OPTION: In case you don't want to order the Kaleidoscope project, try this project just for fun!

SWEET SCULPTURES: Encourage each student to design and make his or her own candy sculptures using the materials provided.

Students may create figures or objects to illustrate Bible stories and play out the story using their sculptures. Or, let them be as creative as possible and ask them to give their completed sculpture a name to tell the group.

Supplies needed: Marshmallows of different sizes and colors, candy corn, gumdrops, licorice ropes, scissors, toothpicks, small cardboard base for each sculpture, plastic sandwich bag to carry sculpture home.



IT'S A PARTY

THIS IS YOUR WEEK TO HAVE A PARTY, ENJOY YOUR STUDENTS AND EVEN INCLUDE THE ADULT CLASSES FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

SEE THE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION FOR PARTY IDEAS. THERE ARE MANY OTHER PARTY IDEAS YOU CAN USE. BE CREATIVE AND LOOK FOR PARTY IDEAS BASED ON THE "LIGHT" THEME.

THE PARTY MUST LAST FOR THE ENTIRE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR. IF DESIRED, CONDUCT THE OPENING TO GIVE EVERYONE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SING THE SONGS THEY HAVE LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE SERIES.

DIVIDE THE PARTY PREPARATION AMONG SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS.

DIVISION SUGGESTIONS: FOOD, TABLE PREPARATIONS, GAMES, SONGS, MASTER OF CEREMONIES, DEVOTIONS, PRIZES(IF NECESSARY).

