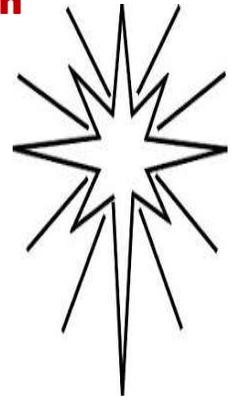


I Am a Light for Our World – A Burning Bowl Lesson

Pre-K – Grade 5
Sunday, December 31, 2017



This Week's Theme: I am the Light the world needs. Right here. Right now.

Teacher Insights:

- As we connect with the God-light within us, we experience love.
- We are role models of love and light to one another.
- As I connect with my God-light, I become a light to others.

Inspirational Writing:

Christ in you--The true light, which guides every human coming into the world, is, and ever has been, in humanity. Even the outer person was formed and came into existence through it. This is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

- Charles Fillmore, *The Revealing Word*

Bible Verse: Wise men from the East followed the star until it stopped over the place where the child Jesus was and they were overwhelmed with joy. - Matthew 2: 10 (NRSV)

Unity Principle #5: I do and give my best by living the Truth that I know. I make a difference!

Affirmations: I am the Light the world needs. Right here. Right now.

Pre-Activity: 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Younger Students:

- * Color the 3 Wise Men coloring sheets
- * Decorate the stars for today's activity

Older Students:

- * Community games
- * Color the "star" mandalas

Heart Agreements describe ways we show respect for one another. We agree to have:

* Gentle Hands * Open Hearts * Walking Feet * Listening ears * Kind Words

Sacred Circle 11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Invite children to create an affirmation that describes how they feel today, for example: "My name is _____. I am _____." Everyone affirms each child by saying, "(Name), you are _____." Continue until all have been affirmed.

Centering Breath for prayer: Breathe deeply and place your hand on your heart. Feel **the light and love** in your heart. Breathe in **love**, breathe out **love** to the world.

Affirmation (Say together): I am the Light the world needs. Right here. Right now.

Lesson Introduction: 11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Let's Sing! (songsheets in the white tubs)

Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star (for younger children)

Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star
How I wonder what you are.

This Little Light of Mine (for younger children)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

We Three Kings of Orient Are (for older children)

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse far
Field and fountain; moor and mountain
Following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading; still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Discussion:

- What do you remember about the Christmas story?
- Why were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem? Why was Jesus born in a stable?
- Who saw the star in the sky? (The shepherds and 3 Wise Men) What did they do when they saw the star? (They followed the star to Bethlehem to see Jesus.)

Today's Scripture Reading: The 3 Wise Men Visit Jesus (adapted from Matthew 2: 1-12)

The Wise Men followed a star to Bethlehem and brought gifts to honor Jesus.

Discussion:

- How did shepherds and Wise Men know where to find Jesus? (They followed the star.)
- How is the star that was above the stable in Bethlehem like the light in you?
- In what ways do we let our bright light shine?

Today's Story: I Am a Light

The children in George's class make fun of him because he is quiet and needs a wheelchair. George's teacher, Mrs. Brown, invites George to share his poem, "I Am a Light," with the class.

Discussion:

- Who saw "light" in George? (His teacher, Mrs. Brown)
- What does George's poem "I Am the Light" mean?
- What does George ask others to do at the end of the poem? (Share their lights.)
- How can you shine like a star for others?

Creative Expression: 11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Younger Children: Star Wands

Materials: * 2 paper stars * Crayons or markers * Stickers
* Ribbon * Glue sticks * Wooden rods * Tape

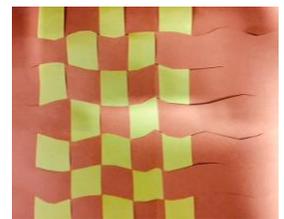
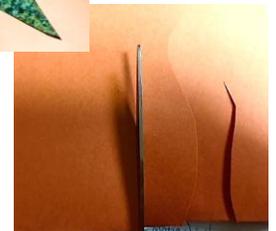
1. Color the paper stars.
2. Tape curled ribbon and a wooden rod to one of the stars.
3. Use a glue stick to adhere a 2nd star over the ribbon and rod.



Older Children: Star Message Mat

Materials: * 3 sheets of construction paper * 1 sheet of construction paper cut into strips * Glue stick * Scissors
* Sharpie or marker

1. Draw and cut a large star in the center of a sheet of paper.
2. Fold a 2nd sheet of construction paper in half and cut wavy or straight lines. Allow about a 1" margin on both sides of the paper.
3. Open the folded sheet and weave strips of colored paper through the cut lines. Glue the ends of the paper strips to the construction paper.
4. Glue the paper with the large cut-out star on top of the weaving.
5. Glue a 3rd sheet of construction paper to the back of the weaving.
6. Write a positive message or affirmation on the front of the art work.



Closing Prayer/Circle: 11:50 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

Spirit of Light, thank you for shining so bright in our hearts. As we share our light, we celebrate the light we see in others. Amen!

**Join everyone in the church for closing songs.
We will return to classrooms after the blessing.**

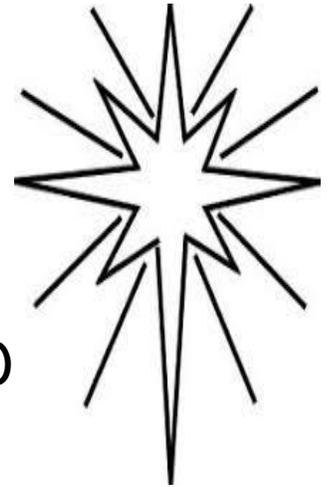
Teacher Reminders: Please HELP

- Encourage children to help tidy up the classroom.
- Remind parents and adults responsible for children to sign out before they take a child out the classroom.
- Return the teacher tub and all supplies to the Resource Room.



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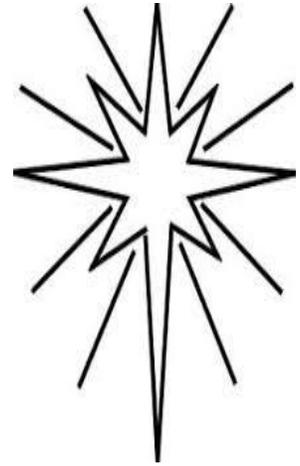
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The 3 Wise Men Visit Jesus

(Adapted from Matthew 2: 1-12, NRSV)

After Jesus was born, Wise Men from the East wanted to know where they could find Him.



"Where can we find the Child?" they asked.

"We saw the star and have come to honor Him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was frightened. He called all of his chief priests together and wanted to know more about a newborn child named Jesus.

They told him, "It was written by the prophets:

'Go to Bethlehem and you will find a ruler who will be a shepherd to all of God's people.'"

The King told the Wise Men, "Go look for the child and when you find him, tell me so I can honor him, too." The evil and jealous king wanted to kill Jesus.

The Wise Men followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was and they were filled with joy. They saw the child with Mary, his mother; and knelt to honor him. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

They were warned in a dream not to return to the King. They quietly returned to their own kingdoms.

I Am a Light

A boy named George sat in a wheelchair on the playground and watched the other children toss footballs and chase one another. Some of the children in his class made fun of him because he wore braces on his legs. It was very hard for George to walk.



George could not kick the ball and run like the other kids, but he could write. George wrote stories. He wrote poems. George never shared his stories and poems with anyone because he was afraid the other kids might laugh at him.

One day, Mrs. Brown, George's teacher, found one of his poems.

"Did you write this, George?" she asked.

"Yes," he whispered.

"I think this is a wonderful poem," said Mrs. Brown. "Can we share it with the class?"

"No, please don't show it to anyone," he begged. "Everyone will laugh at my poem. They will laugh at *me*."

"George, your poem is beautiful because it comes from your heart," said Mrs. Brown. "Trust me. Your words may inspire them."

"Okay," mumbled George.

Mrs. Brown asked the class to be quiet. She turned off the lights in the classroom and lit a candle.

"Each one of us are like this candle," explained Mrs. Brown. "We can be lights to one another."

The children nodded.

"I asked George to read his poem to the class," she said.

George slowly steered his wheelchair to the front of the class. When Mrs. Brown said she wanted to share his poem with the class, he thought *she* would read it out loud. He never agreed to read it himself.

George sat up straight and tried to look brave as he read his poem:

My feet may look funny.

And I may look weak.

You may think that I

Am too shy to speak.

If you get to know me,

You'll learn that I'm brave.

There is a light in me

You can't hide in a cave.

The light in me is

So strong like a ray.

I'll share it with you,

If you share yours today.



George looked down and waited for the children to laugh at him.

A girl who sat in a desk in the first row stood up and clapped. Two more students stood and clapped, too. Everyone stood and clapped for George.

"Thank you, George, for sharing your light with us today," said Mrs. Brown.

George felt very brave. And, for the first time, he believed he found new friends in his class.

The End