

Testify of the Light

Jesus is the light.

Scripture Words

[Jesus said] I am the light which shines in darkness.
—Doctrine and Covenants 3:14b adapted

The light shines in the darkness.
—John 1:5

Here We Come!

Visit with the children while seated in a circle around a box of broken crayons. Let them tell you about crayons. Ask them to pretend each crayon is a lamb or sheep. Scoop up a handful of crayons and suddenly throw up your hand, scattering the crayons all over the room. Ask the children to help you find the “lost sheep.”

Once all the crayons have been found and returned to the box, repeat the activity, asking the children to imagine each crayon is a person. This time, as the crayons are returned, talk about the task of finding them. How do you know where to look? How can you be sure you got them all? Pass out flashlights and ask the children to look again to be sure.

Scripture Words and Worship

Use the flashlights in a dark space to show a concrete example of the light talked about in the scriptures. After finding the verses in the scriptures, print the word “light” on a variety of shapes such as a candle, a flashlight, and a light bulb. Glue these shapes on a sheet of black paper to represent the light shining in the darkness. Glitter could be added to the “light” parts to make it more interesting.

Up and at 'Em

Play a game of “Follow the Light.” Each child is given a flashlight to hold. Help position the flashlight so that the light makes a circle on the ground behind the child. Each one follows the next one, stepping on the circle of light of the person in front of them. Take one step at a time to be sure the lights are hitting the ground.

Sense-ations

Pretend to take a long trip. Walk for a while, and then stop to rest. Spread a blanket and serve a snack of crackers only. What happens when the children get thirsty? Walk to a place where they can get drinks. Sing and dance and be happy.

Story Talking

What does it mean to make a promise? What does it mean to keep a promise? What is a broken promise? Why do promises sometimes get broken when people make them? Let the children tell about promises they have been given. How did they feel when the promise was kept? How did they feel when the promise was broken?

When someone we trust makes a promise, we know that person will do everything possible to make sure that promise comes true. Let the children tell you what they remember about baby Jesus coming to the earth.

- How do we know these things happened?
- If you met someone who didn't know about baby Jesus, what would you tell them?

Live and Learn

Having just celebrated the Christmas season, the children know Jesus was born and are excited about that. Talk about a time when people didn't know. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there were those all around in the city who had no idea what had happened. When he was a child growing up, people in Jesus' own community didn't know how special he was. Even though God had promised to send the Messiah, people didn't realize Jesus was it.

One of the things people did in Jesus' time was listen to the scriptures as they were read by the leaders. Tell the story of Jeremiah as he tried to encourage the people from his country who had been taken captive. Jeremiah testified that God keeps promises. The people who were taken away were promised that someday they would come back and would be happy.

People in Jesus' time could read the scriptures of Jeremiah. They could listen to stories about the captivity. Then when they read about the time when the people came back home, they could believe God's promises. And Jesus was one of God's promises.

- The people in Jerusalem were sad. Their friends and families were gone. They had been taken to a faraway place, even though they didn't want to go. They were afraid God wouldn't know where they were.
- God always knows where we are. God gave Jeremiah a message for the people in Jerusalem. "Sing and be glad! Shout and give praise!"
- The people were confused. They felt sad about their missing friends and family. Why did God want them to be happy?
- Jeremiah knew God would answer their prayers. God promised, and God always keeps promises. "God's going to bring them home," Jeremiah said. "No matter where they have been scattered, God will find them and bring them home."
- "But they are faraway. Some are old. Some have young children and babies. How will they know which way to go?" asked the people.
- Jeremiah said, "God will show them the way. God promises to lead them beside brooks of cool fresh water. They will walk in straight, clear paths so they won't stumble. God will lead them the way a shepherd leads sheep. They will be so happy they will be singing out loud."
- The sad people listened to Jeremiah. They believed the words of God. Their sadness was going away. They were beginning to feel happy.
- "It will be like that for those who were lost," Jeremiah said. "The people coming home will be happy in the way you are beginning to feel happy now. They will dance and laugh and sing. You'll see. God's promises can be counted on."
- And sure enough, things happened just like Jeremiah said they would. People wrote down the story of the returning people. It became part of the scriptures. Their children and their children's children could read the stories. Everyone could believe in God's promises.

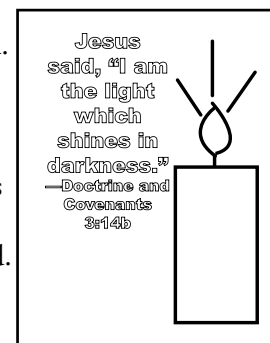
[The Word (Jesus)] was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.
—John 1:10-12 NRSV

Moving Music

- "This Little Light of Mine" (page 40)
- "Jesus Loves Me"
- "Shine, Jesus, Shine," NS #45. Listen to a recording of the song while the children make flashlights play along a wall. If the song is used in the congregational worship, the children can repeat the activity in a larger setting.

There We Go

Make copies of the candle and scripture found in the pattern section, page 41. Children can add color and glitter or gold foil to the candle flame.



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