



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: *Dennis & Diane Gordon*

THE TABERNACLE #4 JESUS MY LIGHT & LIFE

Exodus 25:23-30; 26:15-30; 35:25-26; 36:8-19



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME JESUS WANTS ME, TO LET HIS LIGHT, SHINE CLEAR AND BRIGHT, FOR ALL OF MY LIFE

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: *Repeat 2x with Congregation*

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

INTRODUCTION: We learned from the covering of the Tabernacle that there was no beauty in Jesus on the outside that anyone would want to know Him, but inside, the Spirit who is God was shining in Jesus, the light of the world. There was something very precious inside the Tabernacle protected by the coverings - it was the glory of God. Jesus wants us to look deeply into the things of God to discover the hidden riches of His glory, and He wants us to look beneath the human skin of our brothers, and see the beauty of Jesus in them. God wants our strength and beauty to come from Christ living in us, and to let our lights shine, so other find Him.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

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| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching Song' | |
| 2. Children's Songs/Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

OBJECTS TO BRING: Model Tabernacle and Courtyard, Big Flashlight, Jar of Mudl, Candlestick

2. CHILDREN'S STORY: JASON'S LIGHT

Jason was 11 years old and his little sister was 4. Jason loved Jesus with all his heart and wanted to please Him, but he also liked to please his friends. The next day was summer vacation, so Jason's friends were planning to go see a movie on the corner, and it was a new Dog movie so he wouldn't have to make an excuse why he couldn't go this time. When Jason asked his parents they thought it would be fine, but Amanda begged, "Pleee-ease, can I go too?" Jason was relieved when his mom said, "No Amanda, you're too little so you'll have to stay home with Daddy and me, but maybe Jason can play with you before he leaves!" Amanda looked at Jason, "Will you, Jason?" Jason groaned, but he loved Amanda, "Sure I'll play with you before I go," he promised.



The next day came and the whole family slept in late, but Jason woke up early. He had just pulled on his jeans and T-shirt when the doorbell rang. It was his friends saying, "Hey, Jason! You ready to go?" Jason looked back and saw Amanda just waking up. He remembered he had promised to play with her when he saw the hopeful look on her face. "If I just leave with my friends, no one will know", he thought. But Jason knew he had promised, and God knew. Jason wanted to please Jesus and said, "You guys go on, I promised to play with Amanda first." The boys urged, "Come on Jason, you'll miss the best part, just play with her later!" But Jason was sure, "No, a promise is a promise, I'll catch up." So they left and Jason played until Amanda was happy and ready for him to leave.

Jason got to the movie and found his friends. He was afraid they'd make fun of him, but they didn't make fun of him at all. They were looking at him - with respect. Jason had missed the first half of the movie, but he knew God was pleased, and it was worth it. Jason had been trying to tell his friends about Jesus, and today he showed them without a word, how much Jesus loves every one of us, and how He always keeps his promises! Jason had let his light shine so that others would see Jesus, and want to know Him too!

3. THE TABERNACLE SHOWS US THAT SALVATION AT THE ALTAR IS *FOR* SOMETHING, THERE IS MORE!

Getting ourselves past the outer court **to enter in** to the presence of the Lord can be a real challenge with our busy lives, but **there is a ministry still to be performed**. Jesus died once for all and we are now saved by faith, with our High Priest Jesus living in our hearts by His Holy Spirit ministering through us! The Tabernacle shows us that every believer is called to minister as a priest before God, daily confessing our sins upon the head of the Lamb and washing, before entering in to the light of the Holy place as a priest before Him. **These words were written for the church:**

1 John 1:6-10 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

The message of the Tabernacle, is God’s picture of who He is in His church, taken from the physical then revealed in Christ, that we are saved by His blood and washed in His word, **for the purpose of becoming His royal priests who alone get to enter in to the beauty of His holiness** where there is no more darkness, because He fills us and immerses us with His marvelous light!



1 Peter 2:9-10 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: ¹⁰ which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

The good news is we have His mercy and He has made us priests!

4. THE SHEWBREAD AND LAMPSTAND REPRESENT BEING FILLED WITH THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD.

The bread of God was to be kept on the table of shewbread at all times, showing that God's presence went with them, to show that Jesus was there to give them rest, and Jesus is here to give you rest.



Exodus 25:23-30 “*Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof...³⁰ And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me always.*”

People who came only for forgiveness of sin with hardened hearts could go no further. Only the priest could wash in the lavar and go in to the Holy Place to eat of the bread and experience the glory of His presence - but God has made us priests to live in Him forever!

John 6:35 “*Then Jesus said, “I Am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”*”

As a Christian believer, God expects to find you having moved forward past the altar, washed clean, and in the Holy Place in the light of His presence, eating daily of the bread of life filled with Him, and doing the meat of His will...ALWAYS!

John 6:51 “*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*”

Jesus is the bread of life, and the oil of anointing that was to be mixed with the bread and always present on the table of our hearts, filling us with life and the water of His word so we will never thirst again!

5. THE LAMPSTAND HELD THE OIL OF ANOINTING.

(Show replica of 7 Branch Golden Candlestick.)



Exodus 25:31-40 “And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: ...³² And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side...³⁴ In the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers...³⁶ all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold.³⁷ And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light...⁴⁰ And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.”

Why are the budding almonds important? They symbolize that we are chosen by God, who alone can make His life to rise up in us.

Numbers 17:7-8 “And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. ⁸ And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.”

Why do we always light 7 candles to begin our service in this tabernacle each week? The number 7 in scripture shows the completeness of God, the 7 Spirits, and the 7 Churches; just as these 7 candles are symbolic of the completeness of God’s presence shining in us and through us through His Holy Spirit, with Jesus in our midst, and us abiding in Him, the branches coming out from Him, with His light shining through His church.

John 15:4-5 “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

WHEN WE ABIDE IN JESUS WE SHINE IN HIS GLORY!

6. THE GLORY OF GOD SHINES IN HIS TABERNACLE

2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6-7 *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord... For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

When Jesus shines in you, He changes you from glory to glory!

OBJECT LESSON: LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

(Turn out the lights and shine a flashlight on the wall.) I have a flashlight I can use to help me find things in the dark. *(Now shine the flashlight on your own face as you talk.)* I also have the light of Jesus in my heart. It is wonderful to have Jesus to shine His light in the darkness so that we can know which way we should go. When I let Jesus shine through my life, others can see the light of Jesus shining in me, and find their way to Jesus and receive Him.



(Open jar and smear some mud on the glass of your flashlight. Then shine its light back on the wall.)

What happened to this light when I put a bit of mud on it? Mud on a flashlight makes the light grow dim. We have trouble seeing clearly when darkness is blocking the light. The same thing happens when you let sin come into your life and leave it there to rule your life.

Each time you choose to sin, you may not see it, but you cover yourself like a child playing with mud, and you block the light of Jesus shining through you. Then you stumble and get hurt in the dark. *(Turn lights on..)* We need the light of Jesus to show us the way. *(Wash the light with the washcloth.)* Choose to keep your heart clean so that your light will shine brightly so others may see your good works and glorify God in Heaven!



7. WHEN THE FLAME OF GOD FLICKERS, DON'T START LIGHTING MORE CANDLES, TRIM THE WICK!

Good works are often confused with the true light of Jesus. When darkness overwhelms you, don't light more candles! We can be working so hard helping others that we do not have any time left to rest in Jesus, where we go to fill ourselves with His presence. We all need to slow down. What can I learn from the light of the Tabernacle? **WASH THE DIRT AND TRIM THE WICKS!**

John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Revelation 22:5 "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever."

Not my own accomplishments nor my own works make me shine, but only Jesus living in me gives me light for now and for eternity.

Matthew 25:1-13 Only the virgins who kept their wicks trimmed and their lamps filled with oil were ready to meet the bridegroom. We must always keep our wicks trimmed by confessing our sins to God, and keep our lamps filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit and be ready, because we never know when Jesus will come! If we do not remember that it is God who hath made us and not we ourselves, that He is the vine and we are the branches who abide in Him, then we are in danger of the same error.



Luke 10:41-42 "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: ⁴²but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

When I am overwhelmed with life and the light of Jesus is flickering, I need to trim the wicks, and sit at His feet and be filled with the oil of His Holy Spirit - the only needful thing.

8. THE EMBROIDERED CURTAINS.

We are not to make any likeness in order to worship that likeness, but God's instructions for the Tabernacle teach us that making the likeness of angels to surround us in our homes is for the purpose to remind us of beautiful Heaven, and to be holy because God is holy.



Exodus 26:31-36 “*And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:*

· ³³ And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy...³⁶ And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework.”

The Holy Place represents the work of God's Holy Spirit and of His continual service in and through each Believer. When you look inside the Tabernacle, the gold all around lit by the lampstand and the angels above reflecting the heavenly glory of God, represent walking from the world into the presence of the Lord.

1 Peter 1:3-6 “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*



The beautiful curtains of the Tabernacle are also a picture of Jesus coming in all His glory with the angels to call us home!

9. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE REPRESENTS THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE "FOR THE SAINTS" RISING AS A SWEET-SMELLING FRAGRANCE TO HIM.

We must stop sinning, so we can get past the outer court where we are forgiven and washed, and enter into the presence of God! Your prayers should not always be about your troubles, and my prayers should not always be about my troubles. Praise God and enter into His glory and join Him in ministry to others! Prayers that rise up as a sweet fragrance, are our 'prayers for the saints'.

Exodus 30:1-8 "And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood... ³ And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, ... ⁶ And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. ⁷ And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. ⁸ And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations."

The priest was to tend to the burning incense every morning and every night to keep the prayers burning perpetually before God throughout all generations...even until today.

Revelation 8:3 "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne."

How is the Altar of Incense a picture of my relationship with God?

Hebrews 13:15 "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that confess his name."

Ephesians 5:1-2 "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

10. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR MY LIFE

- 1. Jesus wants to shine brightly through my life so others may see His light, and come to Him to be saved and made whole.**
- 2. Jesus wants me to leave the world outside behind, and come into the Holy Place where He fills me with Himself.**
- 3. Jesus wants me to understand the great power and glory of His light in me, and keep His word on the table of my heart.**
- 4. Jesus is the light; the oil by which we are anointed is His Holy Spirit, and He is the bread of life, the word of God that is always to be present on the table of my heart, filling me the water of His word so I will never thirst again!**
- 5. Jesus is the vine of the Candlestick and we are the branches. When we abide in Jesus, we shine in His glory!**
- 6. When Jesus shines in you, He changes you from glory to glory until you are fully clean, reflecting His beauty in you.**
- 7. When I am overwhelmed with life and the light of Jesus is flickering, I need to trim the wicks, and sit at His feet, that is the only thing that is needful in my life to shine.**
- 8. The curtains of the Tabernacle are embroidered with beautiful pictures of angels to keep us thinking of Heaven.**
- 9. As I live my life for God with His praises and prayers always on my lips I will become a priest, like my Savior, ministering for the people of God.**
- 10. Jesus offered Himself for me and prays for me; I want my life to be a sweet-smelling fragrance offered up to Him.**

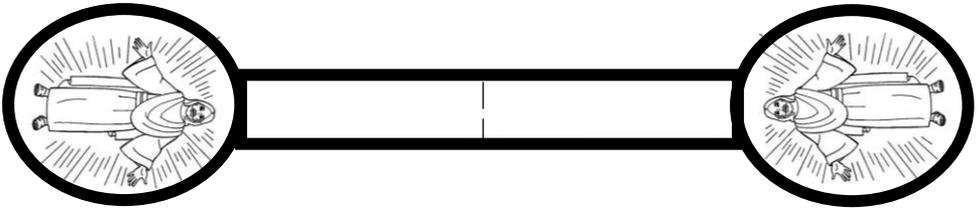
Church prays together:

Our Father in Heaven, Thank you for the picture you give us in the Tabernacle, of you living in and through your church. We enter into your courts with thanksgiving for your blood in Jesus Christ shed for our sins, and for the privilege as priests to wash in the mirror of your word so we can enter into the Holy Place to be filled with the light of your presence. Help us to understand how important it is to abide in you Lord Jesus, for you are the vine and we are your branches. We lift up ourselves to you and ask for healing and wholeness in our lives. Anoint us with your Spirit to be your servants, administering new life to others through our prayers for them. We love you Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

11. GOSPEL CRAFT: CARRYING JESUS IN MY HEART

Directions:

1. Copy Jesus lights onto bright yellow glow card stock.
- 1a. Copy lanterns onto bright red, purple or blue card stock.
2. Cut out Jesus 'light' & fold in half over top of fuzzy stick.
3. Glue backside of Jesus 'light' so it is hanging from fuzzy stick.
4. Cut out rectangle lantern and fold in half on center line.
5. Fold evenly in half across all the lines on the center line.
6. Carefully cut through fold up to stopping point on each line.
7. Open up and punch 2 holes where indicated below the top edge.
8. Apply glue stick and press to opposite edge to close lantern.
9. Place 'light' inside the lantern so it is hanging from fuzzy stick.
10. Poke ends of fuzzy stick out through holes.
11. Form handle by overlapping and twisting the ends to hold.
12. Shine your light for Jesus!



glue	Jesus Love me	O	O	I Love Jesus
here	JESUS WANTS ME TO LET HIS LIGHT			
glue				
here				
glue				
here				
glue	SHINE CLEAR & BRIGHT FOR ALL OF MY LIFE			
Here				

12. COLORING PAGE

Enlarge to white Card Stock.

Have each child color page, then outline letters with glue, sprinkle with glitter & shake off excess.
You may also punch a hole to hang the lantern from a ribbon or string.

