

Candle

Memory Verse: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

John 8:12 (NRSV)

Study plan: When you learn what it means to be the light of Christ, you can share Christ's love with the people around you.

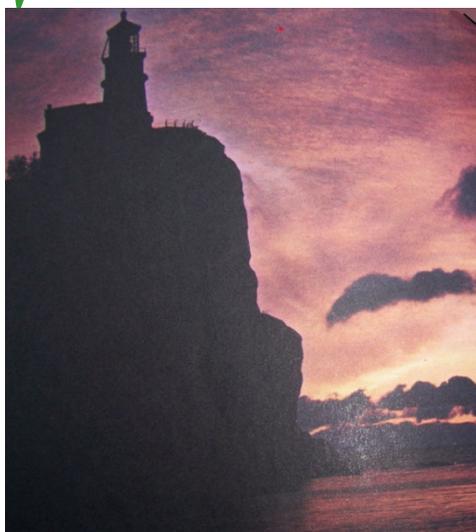


To earn the Candle Badge, you will need to do the following steps:



Step1: Living as a light to the World Leader's initials: _____

The Lighthouse Children



Some years ago on a faraway, rocky shore stood a lighthouse. Night after night its brilliant beam shone out across the dark and dangerous waters. Slowly the light turned, warning the ships to stay away from the rocks. The light blazed on through long calm nights and through stormy nights. It never went out.

In that far-off, lonely light house, lived a man, his wife and two children, Paul and Renee. They lived in the light house and their life centered in the light above them. They lived there for one purpose: to keep the light burning.

One evening as dusk was falling, Father could not climb the steep narrow staircase to kindle the light. He collapsed into a chair. Mother ran to him for he was very ill. She helped him into bed.

After a little while, Paul spoke to his mother. "Mother," he said, "what about the light?"

"Go and see," she said. "I can't go now."

So Paul and Renee crept softly out of the little room and up the dark staircase. Night had fallen and a storm was blowing up. The light was burning, but something was wrong! The sea was in darkness and the great beam shone only toward the land.

"Renee," cried Paul, "the shade is not turning. The ships will not see the light. What shall we do?"

Paul tried to start the machinery, but there was something seriously wrong with the mechanism. He could not fix it.

"What shall we do?" cried Renee.

"We must turn it with the hand wheel," said Paul. "We will turn it together. Remember, Renee, we are the children of the light."



Hour after hour they toiled, turning the great hand wheel. Outside the storm raged. Downstairs, Mother was busy taking care of Father. Minutes seemed like hours, and the hours seemed like days. But these children of the light kept turning, turning, turning the wheel. They carried on until the faint gray light in the east told them their task was done. Captains saw the light that night and thanked God for it.

Just as Paul and Renee kept the light burning through that long, stormy night, so God wants every child of His to keep the light of His love shining out into the dark, troubled world. The darker everything is around us, the more brightly our light should shine. The worse the storm is, the steadier it should be. Nothing should be allowed to put it out. There are many people around us, like ships passing, who are looking for the guidance and friendliness we can give them. So we who are children of the light must keep it burning through the night. *Adapted from "The Lighthouse Children," Bedtime Stories, vol. 5, pages 45-47, by Arthur S. Maxwell, Copyright 1976 Review and Herald ©. Used by permission.*

Discuss

Where did Paul and Renee live? _____

What was the weather like that night? _____

Why did Paul and Renee have to push the hand wheel? _____

Did the sailors know that Paul and Renee were turning the light? _____

When did Paul and Renee finally stop and rest? _____

Who helped Paul and Renee stay up all night? _____



Discern

Step 2: The importance of candles in church Leader's initials:___

Go into your church and look for these different kinds of candles.
(see Leader's List for explanations of the different kinds of candles) Check off the candles you find in your church:

- Sanctuary Lamp
- Eucharist lights
- Office lights
- Paschal candle
- Pavement lights
- Torches



Discuss

We use candles in church. The warm, loving light of the candles remind us that Jesus is the warm, loving light of the world.

Which candle is always burning? _____ Why? _____

When is the Paschal candle lit? _____

When are the torches used? _____



Do It!

Draw pictures of some of the candles you see:

Challenge yourself!

Look up the following scriptures that refer to candles and light. After you have found them, play a charade game to see if your friends can recognize the scripture.

Luke 11:33 _____

John 8:12 _____

Genesis 1:3-4 _____

Acts 9:1-5 _____

Revelation 22:5 _____

Step 3: A story from the Bible Leader's initials: _____

Discern

The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)

"Once there was a woman who had ten coins," said Jesus. Sometimes she would count them. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine...ten coins.

One day something was wrong. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine.....Nine?

Only nine?

Where could the other coin be? She lit her candle so she could see under the furniture. She even swept her house looking for the coin. Suddenly she saw it!

She picked it up and called her friends. "Be happy with me," she said. "I have found my lost coin."

God is like that woman. God wants to find his people who are not following him. They are lost from God. When they are found, God is happy!



Do It!

Act out the story of the lost coin
OR
Write your own story about finding something that was lost

Step 4: Living out a life of light Leader's initials: _____

Discuss

When Jesus is the guiding light in your life, you want to do nice things for other people. This is called showing God's love.

Do It!

Serve others in your community in one of the following ways:

- ❖ Visit residents at a local rest home and sing them songs or deliver a small decoration or treat for an upcoming holiday.
- ❖ Participate in an existing service project, such as Operation Christmas Child, which provides a box of small necessities and toys for a child in need.
- ❖ Help at a parish clean up day or ask your parish priest if there is something your group can help with around the parish.
- ❖ Your choice _____

Discuss

Step 5: Making Candles and Other Crafts Leader's initials: _____

Candles are often lit for the gentle warmth they give. Discuss the ways candles are used at home.

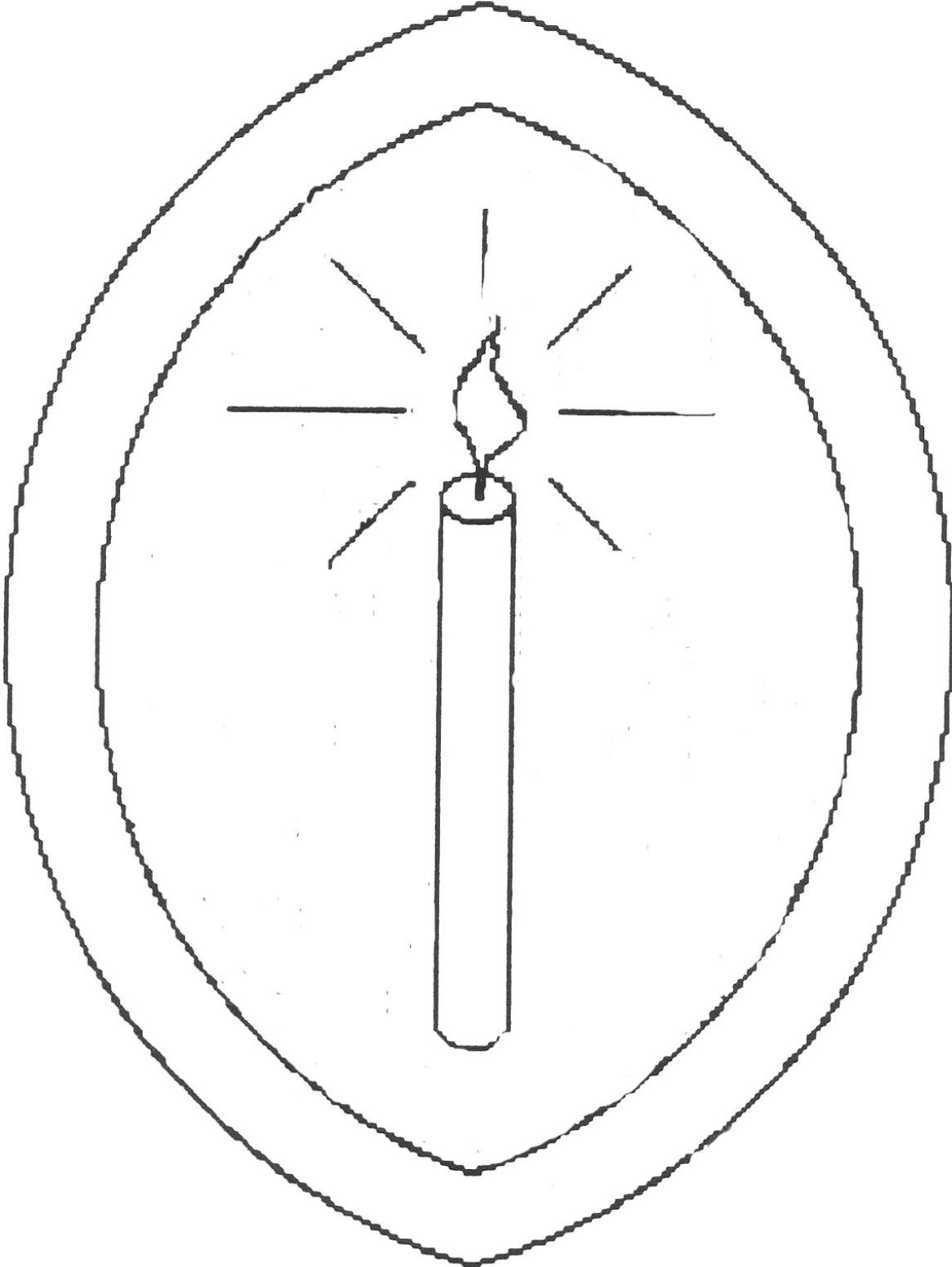
Do It!

Create one or more of the following projects (See Leader's List for "how to"):

- ❖ Dip a candle
 - ❖ Make a candle in a shell
 - ❖ Arrange candles and seashells in a hurricane lamp
 - ❖ Make a construction paper advent wreath. Add a yellow paper flame to each additional candle as the Advent season progresses.
 - ❖ Plant bean seeds in 2 cups. After they sprout, put one plant in the light and one in the dark. Observe what happens to each plant.



Color this badge for your notebook.



Leader's List

Types of candles in the sanctuary:

Sanctuary lamp: The Sanctuary lamp is near the place where the reserved sacrament is kept, and is always burning to mark the presence of the reserved sacrament.

Eucharist lights: the two large candles placed on the altar during celebration of the Eucharist.

Office lights: the office lights are the candles of medium height which stand on the retable (shelf behind the altar). They are traditionally lit for the daily office.

Paschal candle: this is lighted at the Easter Vigil and symbolizes the risen Christ. It is lit for all services from Easter until Pentecost and for baptisms and funerals.

Pavement lights: any large candles standing on the floor of the church.

Torches. These are candle holders affixed to a staff to be carried in procession.

Leaders!

Take a picture of the girls when they create their candles and place the picture in their notebook.

How to dip a candle:

- ❖ You will need
 - Paraffin, candle dye
 - Small coffee can
 - Large pot
 - Wicks and dowels
 - Bucket of cold water
 - Stove
- ❖ Consider using a camp stove in an open area for heating the paraffin. The stove can be placed at a height that is safe for the girls to reach.
- ❖ Put chunks of paraffin with some dye into a small coffee can. Place coffee can in a large pot of water. Heat water until wax melts.
- ❖ Tie a length of wick to a dowel. The length should be about the same as the height of the coffee can.
- ❖ Dip the wick into the melted wax and then into the bucket of cold water.
- ❖ Repeat the dipping process until the candle is as thick as desired.

Make a candle in a shell

❖ You will need:

- A large, flat seashell such as a clam shell
 - Sand or rice
 - Tea lights
 - Paraffin
- ❖ Wash and thoroughly dry the shells. Place shell in a pan filled with sand or rice so the shell is stabilized.
- ❖ Gently pull the wick from the bottom of a tea light. Place wick in center of shell.



- ❖ Cut paraffin into 1" cubes. Place in a glass measuring cup. Heat in microwave on high for about 6 minutes.
- ❖ Slowly pour melted wax into shell.



Make a candle pretty!

❖ You will need:

- A glass hurricane lamp
 - Some clean sand
 - A tall taper candle
 - A few small seashells
- ❖ Drop a few melted drops of wax onto the base of the hurricane lamp.
- ❖ Quickly place the candle onto the warm wax and hold until it is secure.
- ❖ Pour some sand to a depth of 2-3" into the bottom of a hurricane lamp then place a collection of seashells surrounding the candle.

