

Jacob's Creek 2018: Let Your Light Shine – Sharing The Good News! Curriculum for children's program

Let Your Light Shine!

Thank you for being willing to help teach the children here at JCFR. Without your help we couldn't do a program like this, and it is important to the children that they see New Church people and New Church ideas in action serving others. When you teach and discuss and create using scriptural and spiritual concepts, you are Letting Your Light Shine for them! This year's retreat will focus on what the Lord tells us we can do to help His Church flourish. On one level, we will explore what a church organization can do to evangelize or spread the good news. We will also explore teachings about what each of us as individuals can do to help the Holy City New Jerusalem descend. How can we all serve the Lord by helping our neighbors, the younger generations and ourselves see the power and beauty of what the New Church is and offers? How can we let our light shine!

The teaching part of the children's program happens at the same time as the first morning lecture. For each age group, two teachers are assigned. It works well to contact your co-teacher and prepare a lesson between you. For ideas, try New Church Vineyard online.

The following stories from the Word are given as idea-starters and guides. If you want to talk about another story and its application to life, please do.

Recitation

This year we will have one recitation for the entire duration of the camp. The recitation will be said during each worship service. You are welcome to help the children memorize it during the children's program.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Neither do they burn a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the lampstand, and it gives brightness to all who are in the house. So let your light give brightness before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.” (Matthew 5:14-16).

Monday: Being a Light for the World

“You are the Light of the World” (Matt.5:14-16.) Also see Luke 8:16 and 11:33.

Ideas for younger children:

- Read and discuss the story. How can we be lights shining for the Lord, to help others? We can be good examples, showing how to do what's right, and spreading kindness in the world. Think of examples of these ideas.
- Science: what does a lamp or candle need to burn? Fuel, oxygen, and an initial spark. Compare to love, wisdom, and a spiritual nudge to do something useful.
- Act out the story. Practice lighting a lamp or candle carefully, with younger children. Talk about why hiding the light isn't productive. Have a big basket to put over the candle, and a snuffer, which is kind of like a tiny basket.
- Make lamps or candles, if you have supplies.
- Think about what shines a light to help others: a nightlight, a lighthouse, an emergency vehicle coming to the rescue, and so on. Why is light shining through the darkness such a powerful image?
- Sing “One Tiny Candle” or “This Little Light of Mine”.

Ideas for older children: The New Church is the Lord Giving Light

- The church where the Word is and where by it the Lord is known gives light to all those around. When we simply make the effort to read the Word and live according to it there is a spiritual communication of light to others. (See below DeVerbo 17)
- Just by holding a lamp yourself, you provide light for those around you.

- Sometimes we share this light purposefully; other times the Lord provides that light through His church in ways that we can't see.

“But the fact of the matter is this: There cannot be any conjunction with heaven unless somewhere on earth a church exists which has the Word and where by it the Lord is known, because the Lord is God of heaven and earth, and apart from the Lord there is no salvation. It is sufficient that a church possessing the Word exist somewhere on earth, even if it consists of relatively few people. By means of it the Lord is still present...” (De Verbo 17. The whole passage is attached at the end.)

Tuesday: Being the Lord's Disciples

Ideas for younger children: The Lord's Disciples Go Out to Be Wise and Gentle (Matt. 10:5-13 and 16-20) Jesus is here talking not just to His twelve disciples, but to us as disciples also. He gives us guidelines about spiritual power and spiritual behavior in these passages.

Other stories about letting your light shine include:

- The parable of the sower, sowing seeds of truth widely, in hopes that some will be fruitful. Think of Johnny Appleseed, handing out chapters from the Writings along with his seeds! (Matt. 13:3-9).
- The tree known by its fruit (Matt. 12:33-37).
- The Lord's command not to be anxious, but to trust Him (Matt. 6:25-34).
- Giving a cup of cold water (Matt. 10:40-42).

Ideas for older children: The Lord's Disciples Go Out to Be Wise and Gentle (Mark 6:7-13 or Luke 9:1-6. Text is provided below).

- Sending out two by two: Have both charity and truth.
- Power over unclean spirits and to cast out demons and to heal the sick: The Lord and His church brings healing to our lives. When we share it with others, we allow the Lord to bring healing to them. Healing from evils, from sadness, from blindness (lack of understanding).
- Don't take anything: The Lord is really doing the Work. We just help.
- Anoint with oil: Share the Lord's love.
- A staff: Truth.
- Not two tunics.

Exodus 22:25-27: “If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest. If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.”

- This speaks to wanting to share the Lord's church with others not for our sake (so WE can grow, etc.) but for their sake.
- We also should force anything upon them and take away their previous faith too fast.
- Don't charge interest = Don't share and let your light shine expecting a reward in return.
- “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

Wednesday: The Lord Sends Out His Twelve Disciples (TCR 791). There was a great celebration in heaven on June 19, 1770. Angels throughout all the heavens rejoiced and sang when the Lord proclaimed the establishment of the new heaven and the new earth. We can be like those angels, happy that the Lord has given us so many wonderful truths. We can carry the Lord's goodness and truth with us wherever we go.

Ideas for younger children:

- Read and discuss the story. What was the celebration about?
- Act out the story, with slips of paper that have truths written on them. This could be done at a meal or at worship.
- Is it hard to become an angel? What do you have to do?

- Making a picture/mosaic/collage/model of the Open Word, the symbol of the new truth revealed by the Lord, would be a great project. The quote showing on its pages could be “The Lord God Jesus Christ reigns!”
- A person doesn’t always have to talk to teach or lead. How can we show our commitment without long speeches?
- Think of one doctrinal idea that you especially like. Is it our knowledge of life after death, or teachings about salvation, or children in heaven, or loving marriage, or the Lord’s deep love for each of us? If you really love an idea, it’s easier to tell others if they ask about the New Church.
- The New Church is to worship the Lord in His Divine Human. He is the visible God, the Creator and Savior of all. How can we choose to become one of His disciples and follow?

Ideas for older children: Focus on some of the individual messages in the passage:

“The Lord God Jesus Christ reigns.”

- Sharing the good news about the Lord and our new relationship with Him.
- The good news about the Lord Himself being the One God of heaven and earth.
- We are inviting people to know the Lord.

“His kingdom shall be for ages of ages.”

- His New Church may grow slowly at times, but it WILL BE established forever.
- In the book of Revelation it says that the Lord is coming “quickly.” The Apocalypse Revealed explains that this doesn’t mean He and the New Church will be established fast but “certainly”. It’s important to understand this as we share the Church and let our light shine.
- We can share and let our light shine, knowing that things will be done in the Lord’s time.

“Blessed are those who come to the marriage supper of the lamb.”

- We need to respond, by sharing this wonderful invitation to dine with the Lord.

“Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with Me.”

Passages from the Three-fold Word

“But the fact of the matter is this: There cannot be any conjunction with heaven unless somewhere on earth a church exists which has the Word and where by it the Lord is known, because the Lord is God of heaven and earth, and apart from the Lord there is no salvation. It is sufficient that a church possessing the Word exist somewhere on earth, even if it consists of relatively few people. By means of it the Lord is still present throughout the whole world, and by it heaven is joined to the human race. For conjunction takes place by means of the Word, whereas without the Word somewhere in the world, there would be no conjunction with anyone. The Lord's presence and the conjunction of heaven with people on earth is everywhere effected by means of the Word because in the Lord's sight all of heaven is like a single person, and so, too, is the church. Moreover, each also actually is a person, since the Lord is heaven, and the Lord is the church. In this person, the church where the Word is read and where the Lord is therefore known is like the heart and the lungs; and just as in the human body all the rest of the organs and parts draw their subsistence and life from these two wellsprings of life, so likewise do all they in the world who have any sort of religion in which one God is worshiped, and who form the organs and parts of that grand person which is heaven and the church. For these others have life from the Lord through heaven by means of the Word in the church, even if it exists with comparatively few, just as the organs and parts of the rest of the body draw their life from the heart and the lungs. There is also a similar communication. This, too, is why Christians among whom the Word is read form the breast of that grand person. They are also at the center of all. . . . **Moreover, the greatest light, too, is found in the middle, where, as said, are Christians who possess the Word, because the light in heaven is Divine truth emanating from the Lord as its sun. From there as from its center, the light radiates out to all the peripheral areas and gives them light. This is the source of the enlightenment of nations and peoples not in the church-which also comes by means of the Word.** For all light of truth in a person comes from the Lord through heaven. What is true of heaven as a whole is also true of every society in heaven, for every society of heaven is a heaven

in smaller form, and it likewise appears in the Lord's sight as a single person (on which subject, see the book Heaven and Hell, nos. 41-87). In each society, too, those who are at the center similarly resemble the heart and the lungs, and they possess the greatest light. **This light, with a resulting perception of truth, radiates out from that center in all directions toward those on the peripheries and gives them their spiritual life.** I have been shown, moreover, that when those who were in the middle, who formed the region of the heart and lungs and who therefore possessed the greatest light, were removed, those who lived round about were left in comparative darkness, and that they then had such a weak perception of truth as to have scarcely any. But as soon as the others returned, their light reappeared as before, and they recovered their former perception of truth.” (De Verbo 17)

Exodus 22:25-27: “If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest. If you ever take your neighbor’s garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.”

Mark 6:7-13: “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. 8 He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts—but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics. Also He said to them, “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!” So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.”

Luke 9:1-6: “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither staves nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. “Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”

“Because Divine truth which is from Divine good is one only, the twelve disciples when sent to preach the gospel of the kingdom were commanded not to have two tunics; as in Luke: Jesus sent the twelve disciples to preach the kingdom of God; and He said unto them, Take nothing for the way, neither staves, nor bag, nor bread, nor silver; neither have two tunics apiece (Luke 9:2-3); and in Mark: He commanded them that they should take nothing for the way save a staff only, no bag, no bread, no brass in their belt; but be clad with shoes; and put not on two tunics (Mark 6:8-9); And in Matthew: Possess neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your belts, nor bag for the way, nor two tunics, nor shoes, nor staves (Matt. 10:9-10). [9] All the particulars herein are representative of the celestial and spiritual things of the Lord's kingdom which the disciples were sent to preach. That they were not to take with them gold, silver, brass, bag, nor bread, was because these things signified goods and truths which are from the Lord alone - "gold" signifying good (n. 113, 1551, 1552); "silver," truth therefrom (n. 1551, 2954); "brass," natural good (n. 425, 1551); "bread," the good of love or celestial good (n. 276, 680, 2165, 2177, 3478, 3735, 4211, 4217). But the "tunic" and "shoe" signified the truths with which they were clothed, and the "staff" the power of truth from good. (That a "staff" is this power may be seen above, n. 4013, 4015; and that a "shoe" is the lowest natural, n. 1748, here as to truth.) A "tunic" is interior natural truth, and because these things ought not to be double, but single, it was forbidden to have two staves, two pairs of shoes, or two tunics. These arcana are within this command of the Lord, and cannot possibly be known except from the internal sense.” (AC 4677)