

Children's Worship Lesson – November 8, 2020

TENDING THE LIGHT

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Purpose: To explore what it means to “tend the light” of God’s Shalom.

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Flashlights

Pictures for Bible story and activity materials at the end of the lesson.

A “woman with oil lamp” puppet for each child

Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle to remember that God is always with us.

Opening Prayer

Thank you God for this time together.

Thank you for helping us learn about you, and learn how to love each other.

Amen.

SONG: LIVING IN GOD'S WAY – VERSE 1

Words and music: Donald Schmidt, arr. Michael Bloss
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Song: Living God's Way

(tune: Yankee Doodle)

In the Bible Jesus shows us
how to live God's w-ay.
Listen, listen everyo-ne,
what does Jesus say?

Chorus

G-od loves us – me and you,
God loves everyo-ne.
G-od loves us – me and you
and we love others too!

(verse 2 for after story)

We have heard another story
how to live God's w-ay.
Now this is our story, too,
so listen while we say...

Chorus



Introducing the Theme – “Woman with Oil Lamp”



Sit on the floor in a circle and turn off the lights. A story figure – “Woman with Oil Lamp” – should already be taped on the wall or ceiling.

Do you remember a time when it was very dark and you needed to use a flashlight or a candle?

Encourage the children to talk about their experiences – camping, power failures, evening walks, etc.

Then, bring out the flashlights and give them to the children.

In this room, I have placed one of the story people that we will be using in our story today. Staying seated, turn on the flashlights, and see if you can find that person with the light.

Some children will have flashlights that don’t work. Wait until the figure is found by someone with a light that works, then continue. Hmm. We have a problem. What should I have done before I brought these flashlights to class? (Checked the batteries, made sure they worked.) I didn’t remember to prepare before I came! Our Bible story today is about some people who weren’t prepared. (Put the flashlights away.)

Exploring the Theme – Empty Oil Lamps

Open the Bible to Matthew 25.

There is a story in our Bible about some people who didn’t remember to check their lights. Of course, they didn’t have flashlights - they used small lamps. And instead of checking their batteries to make sure that they had power, they needed to check to make sure they had enough fuel for their lamps.

(Show teaching picture #24, “A Palestinian Oil Lamp.”) The lamps looked like this. They were made of clay, and there was a hole in the middle to pour in the olive oil that was used as fuel. The part that you light, the wick, was at the other end.

If you have ever been camping, you know that if you’re going out in the evening, you need to remember to take your flashlight in case it gets dark while you’re gone. It was the same with these people. They would take their lamps with them whenever they went out for the day, so that they could always have light when they needed it.

Story: Empty Oil Lamps

Hand a story puppet, with its flame folded back, to each child.

I need you to help me to tell this story. Your puppets will act out the story.

There was going to be a wedding, and everyone was really excited about it! A wedding meant that there would be a big party - and a feast! And in such a small village, everyone was sure to be invited. (Have the children show excitement with their puppets.)

The day of the wedding came. Everyone gathered outside of a large building and waited for the bride and groom to arrive. They waited. And waited. And waited some more. The bride and groom were taking a very long time, and no one could go into the hall until they arrived.

(Have the children sigh as if bored and have their puppets lounge around.)





Soon it was dark, and the stars came out. Everyone lit the lamps that they had brought with them. ***(Have the children straighten up the flames on their lamps.)*** But there was still no sign of the bride and groom! Some people began to get worried. They had not put much oil in their lamps or brought any extra. One by one, the lamps started to go out. ***(Have the children put their flames down again.)*** But some of the people had come prepared and had brought a small bottle of extra oil. They added the oil to their lamps and lit them again. ***(Have the children on one side of the circle put their flames up again.)*** But those people had only brought enough for their own lamps; there was not enough oil to keep all the lamps burning.

The people who hadn't brought any extra oil decided to hurry back to their homes and refill their lamps. ***(Have the children with their flames down move their story puppets as if running home.)*** It was really hard for them to find the way home in the dark, with no lights to help them! They stumbled along in the dark, wishing they had thought ahead. Several of them got lost. At last they reached their homes on the other side of the village. As quickly as they could, they refilled their lamps with oil and lit them again. ***(Have those children straighten up their flames.)*** Then, after filling a small bottle with oil, so that they were prepared this time, they hurried back to the feast. ***(Have the puppets run around some more.)***

But what about the others? What were they doing while their friends ran home for more oil? Well, while they were gone, the bride and groom arrived and everyone who was waiting went into the building to celebrate. ***(Have that group of children show their puppets going into the hall and celebrating.)***

At long last, the people who had gone home to get more oil arrived back at the building. ***(Have the puppets who had run home return.)*** When they arrived, they were sad to see that the feast had already started. In fact, it was nearly finished! They had missed most of the party! ***(Have that group of children show their puppets being sad and disappointed.)***

In the past few weeks, we've been talking about love. Do you remember the verse from two weeks ago?

Let's practice it again. Repeat after me.

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and love your neighbour as yourself.***

When we show love, it is like a light that shines in us. Jesus told the story about the people and the lamps to remind us to always be prepared, so that we are always ready to let our love lights shine.

Sing: Verse 2 and the chorus of "Living God's Way" (Unit 2 Beginner Song Sheet). Sing the first verse twice, substituting the word "love" for "light" the second time.

Activity: Spreading our Love

Have the children stand at one side of the room with their story puppets. All the flames should be turned down.

Jesus wants us to spread our love light everywhere we go. How can we let our love light shine? What loving things can you do? (**Helping others, loving our brothers and sisters, not littering, etc.**) Each time a suggestion is made, have one child take their story figure, straighten the flame, and move to the other side of the room. Encourage the children to help each other so that the class has come up with enough ideas for everyone to straighten their flame and cross the room. Hold up the Unit 2 logo. (from the worship table) Let's look at the logo for our unit. What do you see in the logo? Can you see a love light shining there? Do you remember what the other pictures in the logo symbolize? (**Hands reaching up in a gesture of welcoming and serving, clouds representing God's shalom**)

Memory Verse: *Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

Matthew 25:13

SING: LIVING IN GOD'S WAY VERSE 2

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Song: Living God's Way

(tune: Yankee Doodle)

In the Bible Jesus shows us
how to live God's w-ay.
Listen, listen everyo-ne,
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Chorus

G-od loves us – me and you,
God loves everyo-ne.
G-od loves us – me and you
and we love others too!

(verse 2 for after story)

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Now this is our story, too,
so listen while we say...

Chorus



Integrating the Theme – Play Dough Oil Lamps



Materials: Play dough
Toothpicks
Orange paper cut into flame shapes
Pencils and tape

We're going to make lamps, similar to the ones in today's story. You'll get a ball of play dough. Press your thumb into the middle of the ball and shape it into a bowl. ***(Demonstrate how to do this.)*** Then, squeeze one end of the bowl into a lip shape and press the lip with the pencil to flatten it. ***(Demonstrate.)*** That is the end that holds the wick. Your wick will be a toothpick. Use some tape to attach a flame to your wick, and then insert your wick into the narrow end of your lamp. It says, "This little light of mine/My love light is ready to light the world" on it.

[Dance Song – Just Sing \(Trolls World Tour on YouTube\)](#)

Closing Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for our wonderful lesson today.

Remember that we should always let our light shine for Jesus and everyone around us.

Amen.

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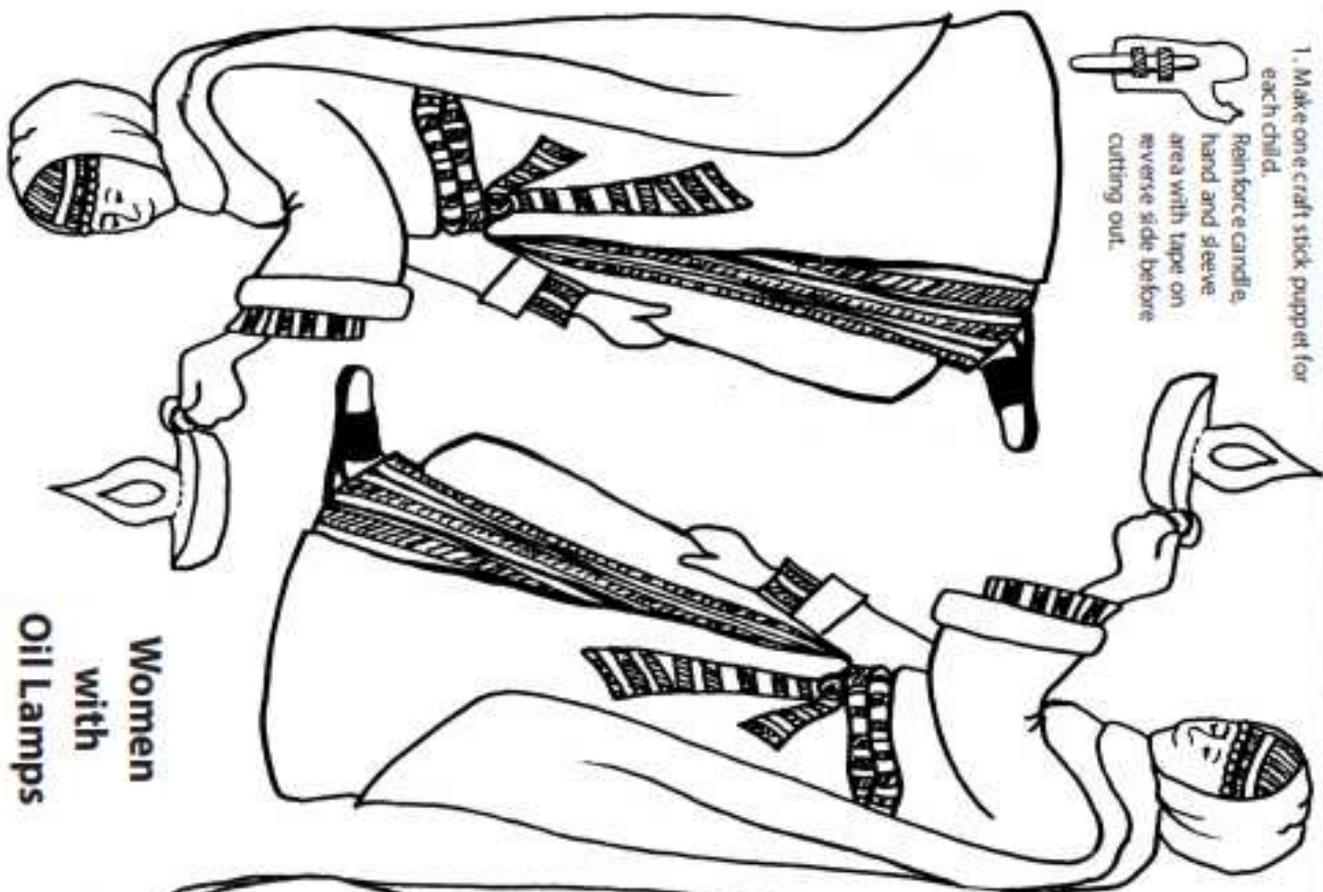
Unit 2

Making a Difference

October 18 to November 22, 2020

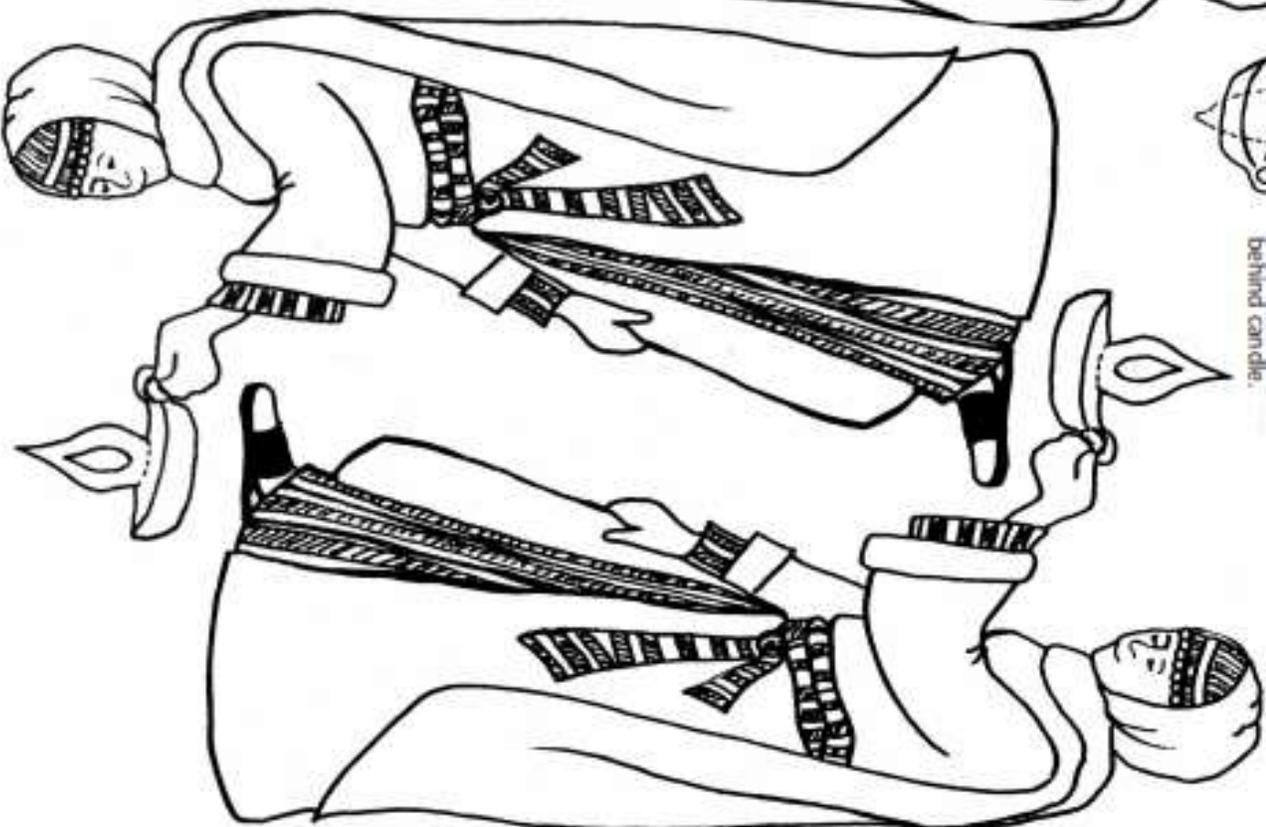
1. Make one craft stick puppet for each child.

Reinforce carnafle, hand and sleeve area with tape on reverse side before cutting out.



Women with Oil Lamps

2. Colour flames yellow and fold back behind candle.



A Palestinian Oil Lamp

