

Week All Age Luke in Lent material : Luke 11.40-56

Equipment:

Big paper
Pens/pencils
Large candle or cross
Tealights/votive candles if you have a sand box or stand to place them in.
Tapers
OHP transparency cut into pieces. OHP pens
Torch or Water pistol and candles

4.25 – 4.35

10 mins

Gathering activity (refreshments could be served while you do this. A CD could be played quietly in the background.)

Get a big piece of paper. Draw a big eye on it. Get everyone to write or draw on the paper some of the things they have seen already today. Talk to each other about what has been happening today.

Gathering prayer

Place the candles on a fireproof surface somewhere safe where people can see it. Light the large candle with a taper, with the words "Jesus is the light of the world" Encourage people to pause, to think about the day they have had so far. You could use these words:

"In our days, which are sometimes full of busyness and bustle, help us to know you are with us. Help us to shine for you in all we do and everywhere we go."

Get everyone to place a tealight around the candle and light one each with a taper (helping smaller children)

You could use the words:

"Jesus, I am here. Shine your light on me."

Pause and enjoy the candle light

4.35 – 4.50

15 min

Group discussion & reading. (Refreshments if not done already)

Discussion question: What is your favourite sort of light? (could be like sunrise/a particular lamp at home/car headlights in the rain, etc. Anything) Discuss together. Why do you like it?

Before the Bible reading, ask everyone to think about what things are mentioned in this reading. Why does Jesus use these words? For those who like to use their hands and

eyes as well as their ears, you could pass out lighthouse pictures and pens to decorate them with while you chat.

Read Luke 11.33-36 together. There are a couple of easier to read versions below:

Jesus said:

33 "No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket.[k] Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.

34 "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is bad, your body is filled with darkness. 35 Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. 36 If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light."

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Jesus said:

33 "No one lights a lamp and hides it. No one puts it under a bowl. Instead, people put a lamp on its stand. Then those who come in can see the light.

34 "Your eye is like a lamp for your body. Suppose your eyes are good. Then your whole body also is full of light. But suppose your eyes are bad. Then your body also is full of darkness. 35 So make sure that the light inside you is not darkness.

36 "Suppose your whole body is full of light. And suppose no part of it is dark. Then your body will be completely lit up. It will be as when the light of a lamp shines on you."

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Some questions to think about together:

- ☺ In what ways does light help us? How useful would a light hidden under a bucket be?
- ☺ What is your favourite food? Are there some foods you don't like eating? Are there things it is dangerous to eat?
- ☺ When Jesus talks about light coming into us, he may be getting us to think about what we look at. Some things are good for us, and some things aren't.
- ☺ What are the good things we see around us? What people or things do we see that help us in our lives? What are the beautiful things we see? What things make us happy when we see them? What can we see that helps us with our faith?
- ☺ What are some of the things you see that make you sad or angry or upset? Is there anything we can do to help?
- ☺ What things might we look at which aren't good for us (You will need to decide if this is an age appropriate question, or think about what responses people might give.)
- ☺ You don't have to say anything out loud, but are there things that you sometimes see which are bad for you as a person?
- ☺ Jesus said "I am the light of the world." What do you think Jesus meant by that?
- ☺ How can we get more of Jesus' light in our lives?
- ☺ Jesus also said "You are the light of the world." Jesus wants us to be like him and show God's goodness to the world. What things about you already show people God's light in your life? In what ways would you like to be more like Jesus and shine even more of his light?

4.50-5p.m.

10 mins

Game, Response and prayer

If you can stand the mess, light a few candles on a tray. Each person gets 10 seconds with a water pistol to try to put the candle out. (tray is important as wax sometimes comes off when playing)

Or

Play hide the torch – get someone to hide a torch in the room and everyone else has to find it.

Option 1

Draw yourself on a piece of OHP transparency. Draw something that you see that makes you sad on a transparency. Either hold them up so you can see the candle light through them or you could put them on the OHP and shine the light through them.

Each person could use the words:

Jesus, please shine your light on me.

Jesus, please shine your light on.....

Option 2:

As above, but draw on a big piece of paper instead. Depending on your group & safety, you could put a tealight on top of each thing you would like to pray for. You can always allow anyone to place a candle, but then light them when everyone is finished.

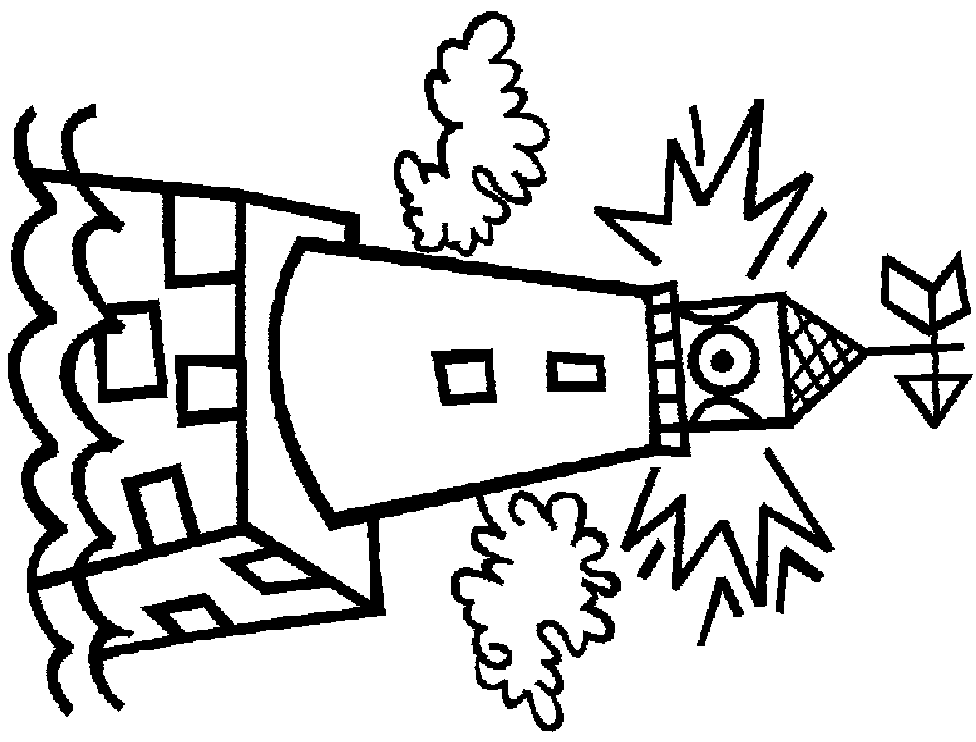
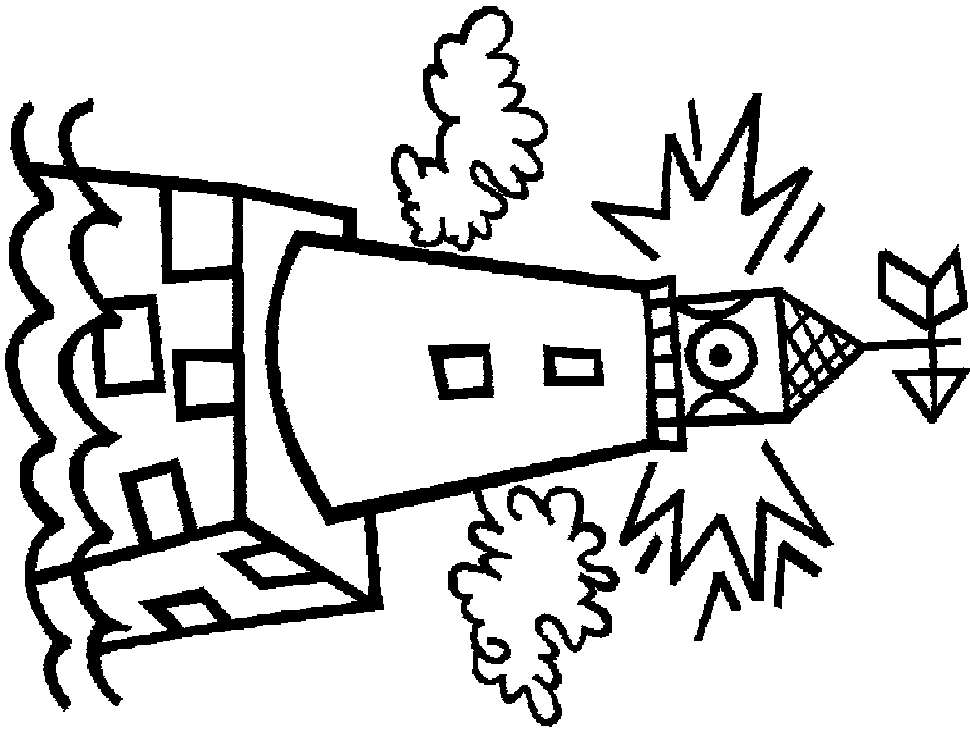
You could end with this prayer:

Jesus, thank you for our eyes. Thank you for all the good things we can see. Thank you that we can find out about people who need help.

Jesus, you are the light of the world. Please shine on us and help us to shine for you in the world.

You could use these words together:

Jesus, we are here.
Help us shine your light.



Jesus, I am here.
Shine your light on me.

Jesus, we are here.
Help us shine your light.

Jesus, please shine
your light on me.

Jesus, please shine
your light on.....