

PARABLE OF THE REVEALED LIGHT

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



Parable:
(in the gospels)
is a story told by Christ that teaches us a lesson about how to live a virtuous life



Lamp:
(in the gospels)
is an earthenware vessel containing a wick and oil used to illumine a home

1

GOALS

Who is the light of the world? How do we shine the light of Christ wherever we go?

2

AT CHURCH

Look at our icon of Christ on the iconostasis - "I am the light of the world."

3

AT HOME

We light candles at home and church to remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

CRAFT: CANDLE

For Middle School Only

Provide instructions and materials to the students to make one rolled beeswax candle each.

Instructions can be found next to the craft materials in your classroom.



St. John Maximovitch reading the gospel, 1952

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ILLUMINES ALL

Read Luke 8:16-18

Before reading the parable, show the ancient oil lamp to the kids and explain that these were the typical lamps they used to light their homes after the sun set during the time of Jesus.

Light your ancient oil lamp & place it for all to see before you begin to read the parable.

Christ provides this teaching in order to illumine those who are listening to Him and give them spiritual light. He is explaining that we cannot simply listen to the gospel reading in church and the sermon of our priest - and then do nothing

about it. We cannot receive Holy Communion - the Body and Blood of Christ - and then do nothing to share the light of Christ with others when we leave the church. This would be as senseless as hiding the light of this lamp (in our classroom) and letting the room go dark.

The next time you're inside of our church, look at our iconostasis. We have an icon of Christ next to the royal doors and in His hands he is holding a gospel book that says, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12) and in the Gospel of John, Christ continues, "He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (The icon is provided with this lesson as well.)

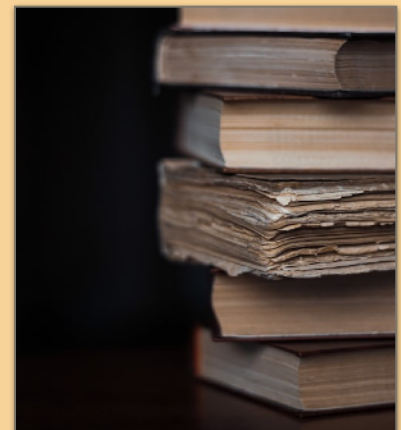
EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact pages 82 - 93

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 165 - 182

The Gospel of John

The Book of James



We are surrounded by reminders that the light of Christ illumines our lives:

- We light candles in the narthex before we enter the church.
- Candles are lit in the church.
- We light candles and oil lamps in our homes.
- In icons, the halo around the saint's head depicts the Divine Light emanating from the person because of their union with God.

There are accounts, written and told, of people who have seen holy people glowing or radiating a light. These holy people have such a closeness with God that sometimes others can see the Divine Light emanating from them. The photo of St. John Maximovitch on the previous page is an example of this. This photo was taken prior to Photoshop or any of the photo editing tools we have today. (This photo has been widely circulated for decades.) When the photographer had the film developed, amazingly there was a glow surrounding St. John, but you need to remember, St. John did not constantly walk around with a light around him. God allowed this light to be seen in the photo for our enlightenment.

St. Paul teaches us that **we are *all* called to be saints**. God longs for us to grow closer to Him, and by doing so, we share the light of Christ with others: our family, our friends, our classmates, with people at church, and each person we encounter when we leave our homes. We love reading the lives of the saints often because they are an example to us for how to live our own lives.

We share the light of Christ by being kind, respectful, and loving - with the words that leave our lips, being supportive of others in need,

showing compassion and mercy, caring for others, and so much more! This starts in our homes with our immediate family and then naturally emanates to our extended family, friends, and classmates.

For Middle School:

Instruct students to pick up the rolled beeswax candle they made and gather near the ancient oil lamp.

For High School:

Pass out a beeswax candle to each student.

All:

One person lights their candle from the oil lamp. (We receive the light of Christ when we receive Holy Communion.) Then this person turns to the person next to them and lights their candle. (We share the light of Christ with others when we leave the church through our words and actions.) Each student turns to the person next to them and lights their candle and continue until everyone has lit their candle.

**Optional: You can ask each student to provide an example for how they would shine the light of Christ to: their parents, siblings, grandparents, godparents, friends, classmates, etc. (For example: to parents - "I will tell them I appreciate that they bought my favorite snacks.")*

Do you see how we can have a positive impact on those around us and how our love and kindness can spread? "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:5-6)

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AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

The Lord said to his disciples,
"You are the light of world. A
city set on a hill cannot be
hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it
under a bushel, but on a stand, and it
gives light to all in the house. Let your
light so shine before men, that they may
see your good works and give glory to
your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

As parents, we are continually teaching our kids through our lived example. They are constantly watching, imitating, and learning from us.

St. Basil the Great (*The Long Rules*) instructs:

While the mind is still easy to mold and as pliable as wax, taking the form of what is impressed upon it, it should be exercised from the very beginning in every good discipline. Then, when reason enters in and habits of choice develop, they will take their course from the first elements learned at the beginning and from traditional forms of piety, with reason proposing that which is beneficial, and habit imparting facility in right action.

St. Nektarios instructs (*Motherhood & the Raising of Children*):

Who would not confess that those impressions received during childhood ultimately prove permanent? Who can doubt that those influences received during the early years are impressed so strongly on a child's simple soul that they remain active throughout the whole of their life?

HOME ACTIVITY #12

As a family:

- Light a candle during your evening prayers tonight
- *YouTube: "Come Receive the Light"* from our parish's Resurrection Service
- Read "*Apostle to the Plains: The Life of Father Nicola Yanney*" (Ancient Faith Publishing)



ST. JOHN MAXIMOVITCH

1952

