

CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

We Are to Be Light to Others

Introduction

- *These notes are based on a simple old legend for kids.*
- *They can be offered to grown ups as an introduction to a Bible study or prayer session on Christ as the Light of the World*

CATCHING A FALLING STAR

A Legend

A little star fell from the heavens...Oh...Oh...Oh, shining, shining, and shining all the way down! Till it fell in a forest

Close by, there was a poor village woman who had come to the forest to gather twigs for firewood. Suddenly the fallen star hit her eyes with its dazzling brightness.

“Oh! Oh! What’s this?” She said. She drew near and carefully picked the star from the ground. It shone now more brilliantly than ever... “Oh! I’ll take it home,” she said. “My husband and my neighbors will be surprised to see our little house and the village so brightly lit up.”

Coming home, she placed the little star outside her window so that it could give light not only to her house, but to the entire village. When her husband came home he couldn’t believe his eyes! “What’s that brightness in my house, and all around he exclaimed!”

She told him how she had found the star in the forest. Her Husband insisted that the star be keep inside their house. “It’s for us only” he said. ” You found it, right? Then, it is ours only. Do not keep it outside for all. It might be spent too soon!” When he said that, the star grew dim. She remonstrated, to him: “Not at all. I want to keep the star outside our window for all the villagers to enjoy” When she said that, the star started beaming again in its full splendor!

So, from that day on, the star remained outside the window. Ever since, the little star kept on shining more and more, giving light and joy to one and all in that poor village.

An old Legend

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. What does the “falling star” from heaven signify?
2. What was the poor woman’s attitude towards that precious star?

3. What does her desire to share the light of the star with all her village people tell us? Any lessons for us?
4. Do you approve of the attitude of her husband? Why?
5. Can “light “be hoarded or be kept only for oneself? Why?
6. What’s the nature of light? Its qualities?
7. Does “light shared” with others diminish or grow dim? Why?.
8. Can light be suppressed or smothered? Why?
9. Jesus said: “I am the light of the world?” What did he mean?
10. Did he come to give light to a few people only? Why?
11. How can we make the light of Christ shine for the entire world to see?
12. Can you remember some Gospel texts about “light”? Mention them. Explain them.

REFLECT, SHARE AND PRAY ON THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS

- Christ is the Light of the World
- Christ came that all might have “light and life”, and have it abundantly
- Will darkness ever overpower the light Christ brought into the world? Why?
- Can love, kindness, hope, faith, friendship, truth, beauty, cannot be kept for oneself. Why? What ate meant for?
- We Christians and all people of good will have to be the light in the world
- Christ is like the sun, we are like little candles!
- It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness
- At sunset, the Sun said to the Diva: “Now, take your turn till sunrise “

BIBLE TEXTS FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER.

Christ and Christians being the Light of the World,

- Jn8/12 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and he will never walk in the darkness”
- Jn1/1-5 “From the beginning the word was with God. The word was the source of life, and this life brought light to all men”. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out”
- Jn 8/12” I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me, will have the light of life and will never walk in the darkness”.
- Jn 9/5“ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world”.
- Jn 3/19-21“ Light has come into the world, but men love darkness rather than light...whoever does what is true, comes to the light..”
- Jn1 2/36 “Believe in the light, then, while you have it, so that you will be the people of the light”.

- Jn 12/46 “I have come into the world as light, that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness”
- 1 Jn 1/5-7 “God is light and there is no darkness at all in him...” if we live in the light – just as he is light – then, we have fellowship with one another..”
- Jn 1/6-9 “God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell the people about the light... He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This (Christ) was the real light that comes into the world and shines on all men”.
- Mt 5/14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bowl; instead he puts it on a lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone in the house to see. In the same manner, your light must shine before people...”
- Mt 4/16 “The people who live in darkness will see a great light, on those who live in the dark land of death, the light will shine”.
- Lk 12/49 “I came to set the earth of fire; how I wish it were already kindled!”
- 2 Co 4/3-6 “..The God who said:” Out of darkness the light shall shine” is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts, to bring us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory, shining in the face of Christ”.
- Eph 5/8-11 “You yourselves used to be in the darkness but since you have become the Lord’s people, you are the light. So you must live like people who belong to the light...”
- 1 Th 5/4-6 “All of you people belong to the light, you belong to the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness...”
- 1 Pe 2/9-10...You are God’s own people... who called you from the darkness into his own marvelous light...”

