



PRESENTED BY



COCONUT TREASURE



India

LEARNING OBJECTIVE For children to learn and share in the joy of God's great gift of love

KEY CONCEPT Jesus is the light of the world! When we share his love with others, we too are lights

BIBLE APPLICATION Luke 2:8-20 and Matt 5:14-16

MISSION ADVENTURE India



SCRIPTURE:

Luke 2:8-20
Matt 5:14-16

Jesus is the Light of the World



INTRODUCTION:

Who's afraid of the dark? Who likes to sleep with a night light on? Yes, many people are afraid of the dark. Without some kind of light, it can be very scary in the world.

What are some of the lights we have? (lamp, streetlight, flashlight, candle, sun, etc.)

At Christmas, we often use a lot of coloured lights to celebrate. Did you know that Christmas is actually the celebration of Jesus's birth? Let's read about what happened when he was born.

Read Luke 2:8-20

So you see there was a great light in the sky and much rejoicing.

Did you know that Jesus is God's only son? God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to earth to show us how to love. It was a costly gift! Jesus had to die (but then was raised up/came back to life) so that we do not have to die for our sins. That is how much Jesus loves us. And that is why Jesus is the light of the world. We can ask Jesus to come into our heart (our life) and shine with his love.

And Jesus says that each one of us can be a "light" in the world? Let's read about it in the Bible.

Read Matthew 5:14-16

What are some of the ways that we can shine? (help others, listen to our parents, be a good friend, share our things, tell others about Jesus' love, etc.)

We can even be a light to people who live far away. We can discover how in our story today.



BACKGROUND

Festival of Lights



CHRISTMAS is a celebration by Christians of the light and love that entered the world with the birth of Jesus, the only son of God, who is the creator of the world and everything in it. Jesus is the Prince of Peace who sacrificed his life, so that people do not have to die for their sins but instead can have forgiveness and eternal life if they believe in him. Jesus' love is a bright light of hope in the midst of hopelessness and the source of grace and goodness that overcomes all evil and brokenness in the world.

CBM and its partners in India, and countries around the world, shine the light of Jesus through word and deed. We work with local, church-based partners to respond to needs. For more information, see the enclosed gift catalogue and/or visit www.cbmin.org.

DID YOU KNOW...

***DIWALI** is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year – the Hindu New Year. Hinduism is the major religion. Diwali is celebrated much like Christmas and New Year's Eve in Canada, with lots of lights, decorations and fireworks. It's a time when families and friends get together, exchange gifts and share special food.

The festival gets its name from the row of lights (candles/clay lamps) that Indians light outside their homes.

*Source: www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

See insert to make your own clay lamp.



SNACK:

Coconut Sweet (Burfi)



Serve a festive treat from India. Here's an easy one with coconut. For more ideas see www.simpleindianrecipes.com

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups of Fine Grated Coconut, 300 ml Condensed Milk, 5 pods crushed of Cardamom or 5/6 tsp (1 pod equals 1/6 tsp), optional food colouring (2 drops)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat a nonstick pan on medium heat. Add and sauté the grated coconut about 5-10 min (make sure it doesn't turn brown), add the condensed milk and cardamom.
2. Saute for another 5 min. or so, continuously stirring, till mixture forms into a ball.
3. Turn off heat. Add colour (optional) and mix.
4. Grease a plate or other container with butter, pour mixture in and pat down firmly with hands.
5. Refrigerate for 1/2 hour for firmness.
6. Cut into diamond shapes (or any pattern you wish) with buttered knife. Serve and enjoy!



On the side of a road, in the middle of a village, under the shade of a big tree, sits a treasure in plain sight. It doesn't look very valuable. But for a little girl called Manasa, and her mom, it is a most prized possession.

"It" is a small, wooden pushcart stacked with coconuts that also contain a treasure – a wonderfully sweet and refreshing liquid. Manasa loves being with mom at the coconut stand and eagerly helps out, putting a straw in the coconut after mom cuts a hole at the top with her machete. Coconut juice is a popular drink in the village and mom is very happy that she can earn enough money to buy food for her little girl and grandmother, who lives with them.

Just a few years ago, life seemed hopeless. Manasa was just a baby when dad died from a mysterious illness. Mom was scared and lonely. What would happen to her and her new baby? Mom didn't have a job. She worried about how she could take care of the family. Mom never had the chance to go to school or take any other training. What could she do? Mom grew more and more desperate.

But one day some people visited and offered to help. They invited mom to meetings where she was able to talk about her problems and get advice and encouragement. Mom was so happy and relieved. She wasn't alone anymore with her new group of friends. But the biggest surprise lay ahead. Mom couldn't believe it when she and other women in the group were given business and other skills training and small grants to start activities to earn money. Mom decided to start a coconut stand.

Mom is so happy that she can send her daughter to school. She insists that Manasa study hard and gets a good education. Manasa loves to study, especially Math. It is her favourite subject. She wants to become a teacher. When Manasa is not in school, she likes to help mom at the coconut stand. Mom sees that Manasa is very good at calculations as she counts the money and gives the correct change.

Manasa is so proud of mom and her new business. Mom works hard every day at the coconut stand. Mom also uses the cart to sell fruit door-to-door, like juicy mangoes when they are in season. Sunday is the best day of business as many people visit the nearby temple. There are many temples and different gods and religions in her country. But Manasa is curious about the God of the people who have helped mom. They say that he loves and cares for all people, especially those who are suffering and alone. He sounds like a wonderful God to have so much love!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What were some of the problems faced by Manasa's family? What are some of the problems you face? Your family? Other families you know?
2. How was Manasa's family helped? (Note: you can mention that the people who helped were Christians; from a church, one of CBM's partners; and that people in Canada have helped to give funds to these programs and pray for the people). Who can help you with your problems?



ACTIVITY:

Give a gift of love around the world



As a class, choose an item from CBM's Hopeful Gifts for Change gift catalogue that will help a family just like Manasa and her mom in our story today. For every item purchased, you can order a unique card. Or visit www.cbmin.org for an electronic card!

TIP: Hand out copies of the catalogue for small groups of children to browse through and have some fun making your final decision on which gift(s) your class will choose. Have each group share which gift they'd like to give and why they want to give it. Vote as a group. Use the remaining time to brainstorm ways of how you, as a group, will raise the funds. Mark down each suggestion on a flipchart or board. Ideally, choose at least one favourite idea so that the group can start to plan.

*You may also wish to have each child take home a gift catalogue to share with their family.



CRAFTS: Gift Tag



Spread the good news with your own hand-decorated gift tags or ornaments. Include a favourite Bible verse.

MATERIALS:

Have a variety of craft materials on hand such as:
Coloured construction paper
Glitter/glue
Craft scissors (for fun design cuts)
Pens/markers
Coloured string

Option: (See insert) For younger children, hand out copies of the colouring sheet and have them put their name, as well as names of family and friends, on each ornament.

Make a class Christmas Tree of Hope, and paste each child's ornament with their name to make the shape of a tree.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Make your own clay lamp. See insert for easy instructions. Give it as a gift to a friend or loved one with your Bible verse gift tag.



BIBLE VERSE: John 8:12



“Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”



FUNDRAISER: Festive India Day

Have an India-themed day at church. Serve Indian dishes, drinks and snacks. Have fun with different spices. Sell handmade crafts (including the one in this lesson). Include games from India, such as Snakes & Ladders. Raise funds to help more families like Manasa's in India and around the world through CBM.

TIP: See www.simpleindianrecipes.com for easy recipes.



PRAYER: Loving

Close your session with a prayer of love, thanking God for each child in your class and asking for his help to be bright lights in sharing his love with others.

ATTENTION TEACHERS! KIDS CARE 2015 is coming soon

Early in 2015 CBM will release a new KIDS CARE series rooted in Matthew 22:34-40. These five fun and engaging lessons will highlight how every child has value in God's Kingdom, regardless of race, geography or gender.

For more details and resources visit www.cbmin.org/kidscare



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*embracing a broken world
through word & deed*