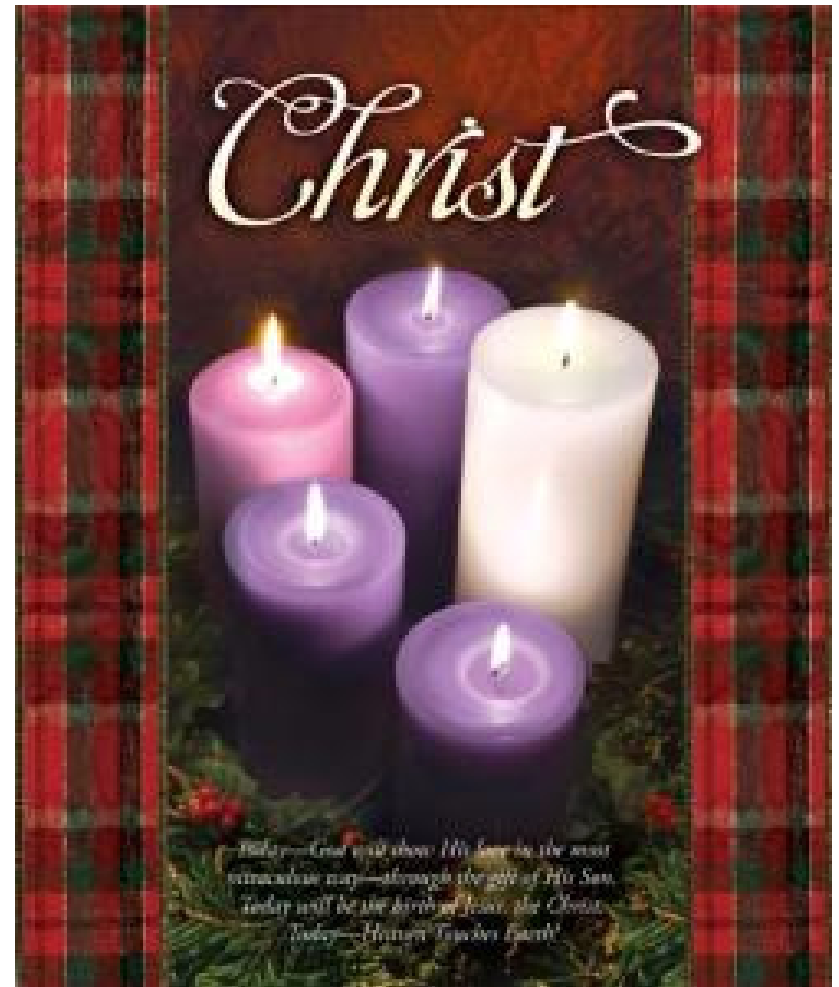


A Frog Visits us for Christmas
By Judi Basey, January 2007

T'was a month before Christmas and all through the house every creature was stirring including the frog. The lights on the tree twinkled all through the day and the train underneath chugged around merrily. The missus was busy with payroll and such, making bells and angels, giving a finishing touch. The mister was finding crock pot recipes; making fudge, having only a few difficulties. When all of a sudden a strange sound they heard, they looked at each other but said not a word. The sound reappeared for over a week. It came from the tub and did not sound too meek. It sounded like croaking, not much like a dog, and that night she saw it, you guessed it, a frog. How it got there, we wondered; from where did it roam? The bathtub drain had become its new home. We couldn't catch it. In the drain it did stay, and so we decided to wash it away. A tub full of water should just do the trick, but this little frog proved to be much too quick. So we just closed the drain and went off on our trip where we played with our grandkids and ate ourselves sick. We returned and for days we heard nothing at all so we figured the poor thing had taken the fall. To get rid of the thing that had died in our drain, I went about filling the bathtub again. I unscrewed the cover to the tub overflow so that water would wash out that area, also. I checked on the water, it was sort of insane, and guess what was clinging to the overflow drain. We turned off the water and just went away. It looked like the frog had decided to stay. A little while later that green frog was swimming and I thought for once that we just might be winning. I recovered the drain where the frog had been clinging so it couldn't return to the drain and start singing. It tried to climb out of the tub and be free, but I had a jar and I pounced with great glee. I captured that frog and I threw it outside. I preferred that to finding out that it had died. What's the moral, you ask? Well, there just isn't one. It's only a part of how the Basey's have fun.



Christmas Advent Devotional



Week 5 - Light

Light

Scripture: Luke 8:16: “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.”

Devotional Thought: What do we think of when we hear the word light? The sun, electricity that powers the lamps in our homes, even a cell phone light to make our way in the dark? The common thread with all of those examples is that we use light to see, to guide our path in darkness, to live!

Isn't the light of Christ much the same, but much more powerful than all of those?

In times of darkness, Christ is with us, and guides us through, shedding light on our path that we may see, and get through obstacles in our way. He is the LIGHT of the world (John 8:12). Through Him, we may have eternal LIFE. The sun pales in comparison to the love and the light of our Savior.

Why would we ever want to hide this light? Each of us has been blessed to shine this light, and shine we should! Let all those who come in wherever it may be, your home or your school, and see the light displayed to reach out and touch whoever enters.

Application: Do I hide the light, or let it shine wherever I may be? How can I better shine this Advent season?



Light

Scripture: Ephesians 5:8 “For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of the light.”

Devotional Thought: Over the years teaching pre-school Sunday School one thing I have learned is that if you want to draw out a shy toddler, start singing “This Little Light of Mine”. The child will start to smile when you are spinning your finger around pretending it is a candle. They will enjoy yelling “NO” when you say “hide it under a bushel”, and they will be giggling by the time you say “don’t let Satan blow it out” and you pretend to blow out your candle. It’s not a fancy toy or a flashy video sharing “This Little Light of Mine”, it’s just me singing a song my Sunday School teacher taught me when I was a child. I didn’t have voice lessons to sing the song, just a heart to show Jesus to a young child. If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are a Light in the Lord. Continue to grow in the Lord, but know that you already are a light for Him. You can shine for Him as you are right now!

Application: Being a “Light for the Lord” isn’t a planned activity or event. *“In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”* Proverbs 3:6. Ask God for guidance in everything you do so that you can be a light for Him.

Family Activity: Sing “This Little Light Of Mine”, then memorize Ephesians 5:8 together. Break the verse into small parts and have your family repeat them back until you have put the whole verse together.

Prayer: God, remind us that our purpose is to worship You. Give us joy in being a light for You.

LIGHT

Light is sun and happy and it is good!!!

Jedidiah Wagoner



Light is sun and warm and light is God!!

By David Frankovich

Light will brighten your day, it will bring excitement and goodness. Without light we would not be guided; the same with people without God.

By MaryAnne Berry



Week 4 December 24

Light

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in their house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Devotional Thought: It is so easy in the world today to forget about what Christmas really is! At our house we remind each other regularly throughout the season that all the hoopla is to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Every year on Christmas Eve after we come home from church, we gather around our table and light a match. We use that flame to light a birthday candle on a special cake that we have made for Jesus! We sing "Happy Birthday" and the youngest children get to blow out the candle. This helps us all remember that of all the gifts that we give and receive on Christmas, no gift is greater than the gift that God gave to the world! Jesus is the light in a dark world. Is your light shining this Christmas?

If you have ever been in the dark during a power outage, you know the feeling of being in the complete, and blinding blackness that occurs. When you light one small candle, it is amazing the amount of light that little flame gives off! It gives hope, warmth and comfort to get us through the storm! That is what Jesus gives to us to get us all through the storms of our lives and all he asks is that we in turn shine our lights for Him to share Him with others. Let your light shine this Christmas. Can you imagine the light we could all create together?

We encourage you this Christmas to be a light in a dark world and to celebrate the birthday of the king! Have a great birthday party for Jesus and sing loud knowing that we too will be singing with you!

Activities for Preschoolers

Baby Jesus

Luke 2:7

Jesus was born a baby,
(cradle imaginary baby in arms.)

Isn't it marvelous?

(clap hands)

God sent His Son so all would know

(point up)

The love he has for us.

(point to self)

Jesus' Visitors

Luke 2:15-20; Matthew 2:11

When Jesus was born,

(Rock imaginary baby in arms)

He had lots of company.

(spread arms wide)

The angels, the shepherds,

(Touch thumb, then index finger.)

And the Wise-men three!

(Hold up three fingers)

God's Son

John 3:16

Jesus is God's Son.

(Pretend to rock baby in arms)

Sent to us from above. *(Point up)*

Jesus came to teach us all

(Point to individuals in group.)

About His Father's love.

(Hug self and smile)