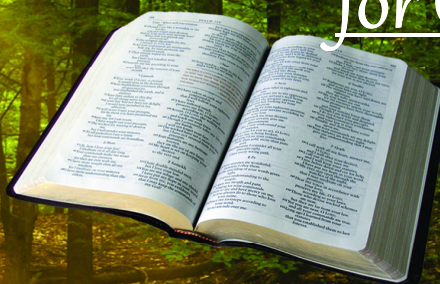


Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD

for Children



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

The Light of the World

Spring 2016

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was empty and dark, and the Spirit of God moved above the waters. Suddenly, the voice of God rang out in the darkness: "Light!" And light sprang into existence. God saw that the light was good, and He separated light and darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night," and the evening and the morning were the first day.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote about the Light of the world: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a Great Light. They who live in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the Light has shined!" "Rise and shine! Your Light is come! The glory of the LORD is risen upon you."

Light is a peculiar thing.

Light makes it possible to see, and light makes things visible. Light travels quickly, much faster than our eyes can follow. When you turn on a light switch, the darkness doesn't slowly disappear. The darkness seems to be instantly gone as soon as the light switch is turned on.

Jesus said:

- * I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
- * If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the Light of this world. But if a person walks in the night, he stumbles, because there is no Light in him.
- * Walk while you have the Light, unless darkness comes upon you. Whoever walks in darkness doesn't know where he is going. Believe in the Light, while you have the Light, so you may be the children of Light.
- * This is the judgment: Light came into the world, but people loved darkness instead of Light because of their evil deeds. Everyone who does evil hates the Light and doesn't come to the Light, because his wicked works will be exposed. Whoever does the truth comes to the Light, so it will be revealed that his good works are from God.

Light and darkness can't exist in the same place at the same time. If you light even a tiny candle in the darkness, suddenly it isn't completely dark any more. The darkness has fled away from the light of the candle flame.



Jesus is the True Light of the world, and He makes the darkness flee away. He shines in the world, lighting every place that He touches. The Apostle John wrote about Jesus:

- * In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- * The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not understand it or overcome it.
- * He is the True Light which lights every person that comes into the world.
- * The darkness is past, and the true Light now shines. Whoever loves his brother lives in the Light, where there is no reason to stumble. Whoever hates his brother lives in the darkness, and doesn't know where he is going.

God made the light shine at the beginning of the creation, and He makes the Light shine today so people will know of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ. We are clay jars with treasure inside—the shining Light of the Good News of Christ's glory—to show that the excellent power is of God and not of us. Jesus, the Light of the World has shined into our hearts, making the darkness inside us flee away.

Toddlers

Through Three Years

A popular Sunday School song says:



Kids love the catchy tune and easy words, but this song can be confusing. Some may feel like they can (or must) “do something” for Jesus. They won’t hide their light under a bushel, or let Satan blow it out... NO! They’ll let their light shine ‘til Jesus comes. Remind your toddler that the Light isn’t his light; it is Jesus, the Light of the world. Your child doesn’t shine of himself. He simply lives, and the Light shines, like a city on a hill, or a lamp on a stand. And when others see his good works, they will give God in heaven all the glory!

Matthew 5:14-16

Have you ever been in a very dark place, like a cave? You might have used a flashlight or lantern so you could see. Or has the power gone out at your house? If it was dark, your mom or dad probably lit a candle or turned on a flashlight until the lights were fixed.

Darkness can be scary! When it is dark, you can’t see. When you can’t see, you can imagine all kinds of frightening things. Sounds seem louder, and you can’t tell what they are. You might bump into things or fall down if you walk. You don’t know what’s out there!

Scared of the Dark?

Your eyes search for light, without you even trying. If you’re in the dark and someone turns on a light, you will automatically look at the light. You notice light shining under a door or through a keyhole, or spilling out a window.

Even a little light makes the darkness go away. Darkness can’t exist where there’s light. A small candle flame or a tiny light bulb can help you not be afraid when it is dark. It is comforting to have a little bit of light, like a night light, in a dark room.

Darkness does not exist where God is, because HE IS THE LIGHT of the world, and He is with you. There will be times when you are in the dark and you might be afraid, but always remember that Jesus is there, and He is the Light, and in Him there is no darkness. He will comfort you when you are in the dark. He wants you to see Him; He wants your eyes of faith to see Him and trust Him and believe in Him. He is always with you.

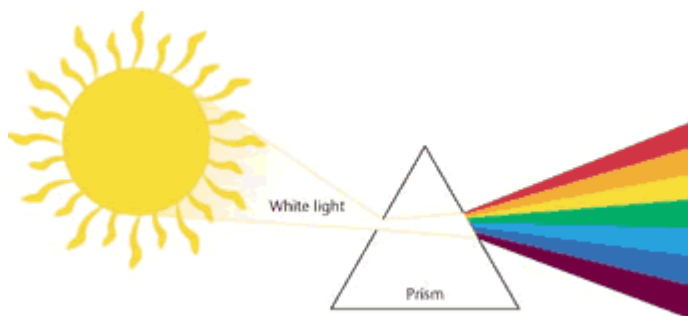
God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5



The Colors of the Rainbow

If you shine white light through a prism, it will separate into all the individual colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.



No light means no color. Black is the color of sin and death. Black = No Jesus

White is the color of light and life.
White = Jesus
Jesus makes your black sin as white as snow!

Tykes

Ages Seven-Ten

When you believe in Jesus, He changes black to white and death to life. He makes you alive in Him!

Each color in the rainbow can remind us of a Bible story.

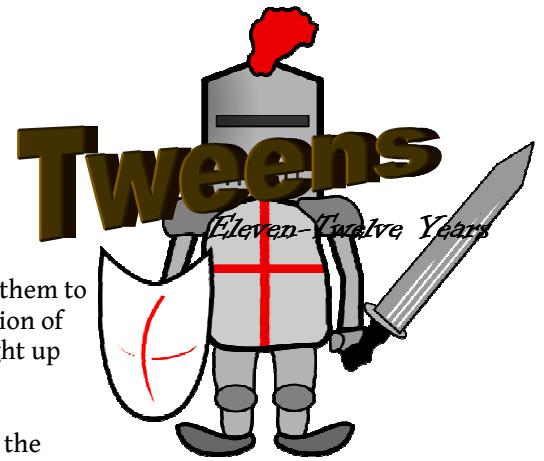
The Scarlet Cord —Joshua 2
The Burning Bush —Exodus 3
Gifts for Jesus —Matthew 2
The Lord Is My Shepherd —Psalm 23
The Creation —Genesis 1
The Temple Veil Is Torn —Matthew 27
The Purple Robe —Mark 15

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

~Isaiah 1:18

Children of Light

The Apostle Paul went on a mission trip to Thessalonica. Later, he writes a fatherly, caring letter to them about their spiritual lives. He reminds them how they received the Gospel from him, and how they've suffered persecution for it, but through it all, they are a beautiful example of faith. He thanks God for their faith, and that he didn't work for nothing in their congregation. He had sent Timothy to them, and Timothy had brought back a good report of their faith and love. Paul tells them to guard against sin and to do good works for one another. He talks about the resurrection of the dead, and how those who are alive when the Lord returns will follow and be caught up together with them in the air. He says, "Comfort one another with these words!"



Then the Apostle Paul says they know that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, swiftly, with no warning. People will be humming along, thinking all is safe and well, and sudden destruction will come upon them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that Day won't surprise you like a thief. You are all children of Light, children of the day. We are not of the night, or of darkness!

Paul then says we should be watchful, because the ones who sleep, sleep at night, and the ones who drink, get drunk at night. But let us who are of the day, be sober (clearheaded, not drunk), wearing the breastplate of faith and love, and for our helmet the hope of salvation. God hasn't destined us to destruction, but to salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us. Whether we wake or sleep, we will live with Him.

We are children of Light, children of the day, because of Jesus and His atoning work. He has made us alive in Him, and He will keep us. We don't need to fear the Day of the Lord, or the Last Judgment, because He is our Judge and our Defender. He has paid our debt! On that day, our Lord will say, "Come, you who are blessed of the Father, and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Comfort one another with these words!

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world..." ~John 8:12

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world..." ~Matthew 5:14

How contradictory is that, at first glance?! Jesus said that He is the Light of the world. He also said His followers are the light of the world. Can both of these statements be true?

Teens

You Are the Light of the World

Jesus continued: *"A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* ~Matthew 5:14-16

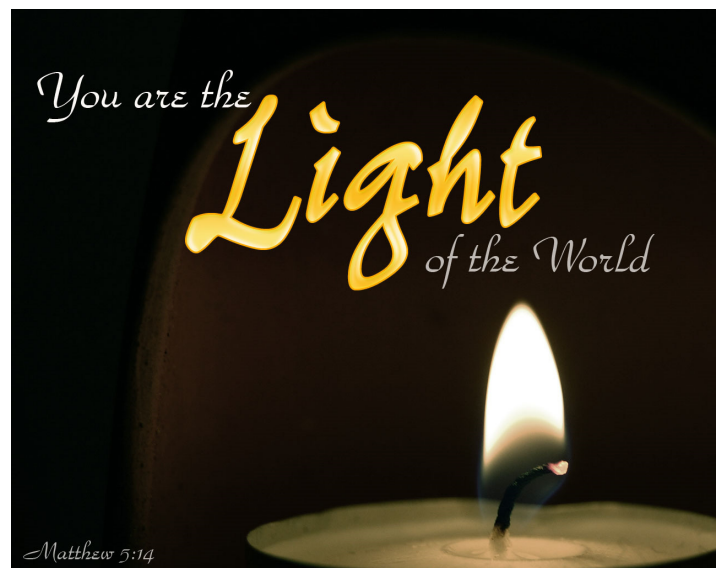
He didn't say: "TRY to be the light of the world." He didn't say: "You SHOULD BE..." or "You BETTER BE..." or "You WILL BE..." He said, "You ARE the light of the world."

You are! Since Jesus, the True Light, has shined into your heart and made you alive in Him, since He has washed you clean and made you God's own child, since He has claimed you as His brother or sister and made you an heir to the kingdom of heaven, then you are the light of the world. Jesus said as long as He is in the world, He is the Light of the world.

You don't run from it. You don't deny it. You don't hide it.

A city on a hill can be seen from far away. People don't hide a lamp under a basket; they put it on a pole so that its light can spread far out to all the corners of the room.

If you believe in Him, Jesus is shining within you, just like the lamp on a pole or the shining city on a hill. And just like light travels in all directions, the Light of Jesus will shine out from you to all the people you come in contact with in your daily life. Those people will see your good works, and they will glorify your Father in heaven. Live your life, letting the Light shine!



Jesus the Christ had shown His true Light to John. John, along with Peter and James, had seen the glory of God, when Jesus was transfigured* on the mountain. The amazingly bright glory of God, which had been hidden in a human body for thirty years, was seen. The face of Jesus shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as light. Moses and Elijah, who had died years before, appeared and talked with Jesus.

Peter said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, let’s make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While Peter was still speaking, a cloud overshadowed them and a voice came out of the cloud: ***This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*** When John and his friends heard the voice, they fell on their faces and were terrified. Then Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Arise, and don’t be afraid!” When they looked around, they saw Jesus only.

God is Light! In Him there is no darkness at all!

John had heard Jesus the Word with his ears. He had seen Jesus the Light of the world with his eyes, had looked upon Him. John had touched Jesus—who was true God and true man—with his hands. John knew the One who was from the very beginning, the Word of Life, the Light of the world. John knew that forgiveness of sins and eternal life was found in Jesus.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

John the Apostle and Evangelist* had a message. He could not keep this Good News to himself. He HAD to tell people about it. God is Light. Jesus is the Light of the world. There is no darkness in God, none at all. John saw the glory of God shining from the Son of God, and he believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Redeemer, the Savior, the Light of the world.

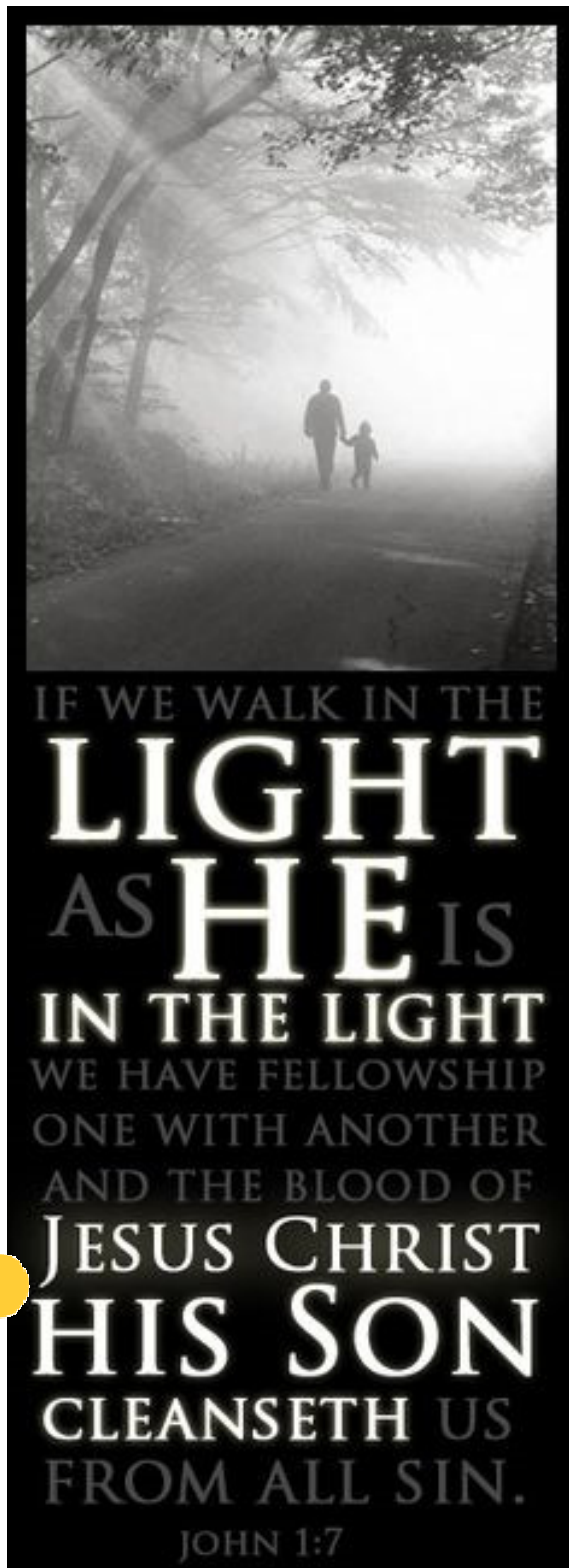
If we say we have fellowship* with Him and we walk in darkness, we lie. How do we walk in the light as He is in the Light? We walk in the light by living honestly and openly before God and man. We live in truth, and we confess that we are sinners in need of God’s grace. We acknowledge His mercy and thank Him for His forgiveness. If we walk in the light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus washes all our sin away.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

1 John 1:3-4

Definitions

- * Evangelist: a person who seeks to convert others to the Christian faith, especially by public preaching
- * Transfigure: to change the appearance of something or someone
- * Fellowship: communion or relationship





Criss Cross

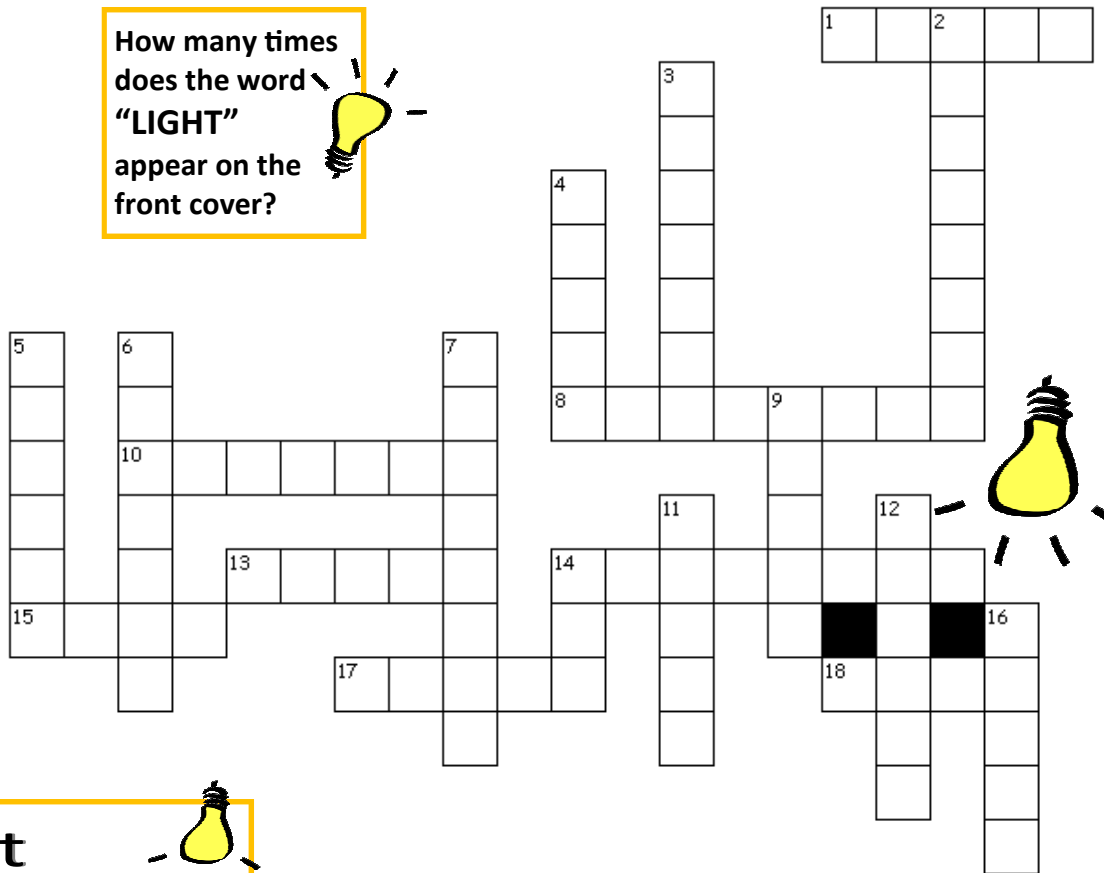
Across

1. PLANET EARTH
8. SOMETHING VALUABLE
10. TRIP OVER
13. NOT DAY
14. BLACKNESS
15. STROLL ALONG
17. GOD'S RADIANCE
18. GET UP

Down

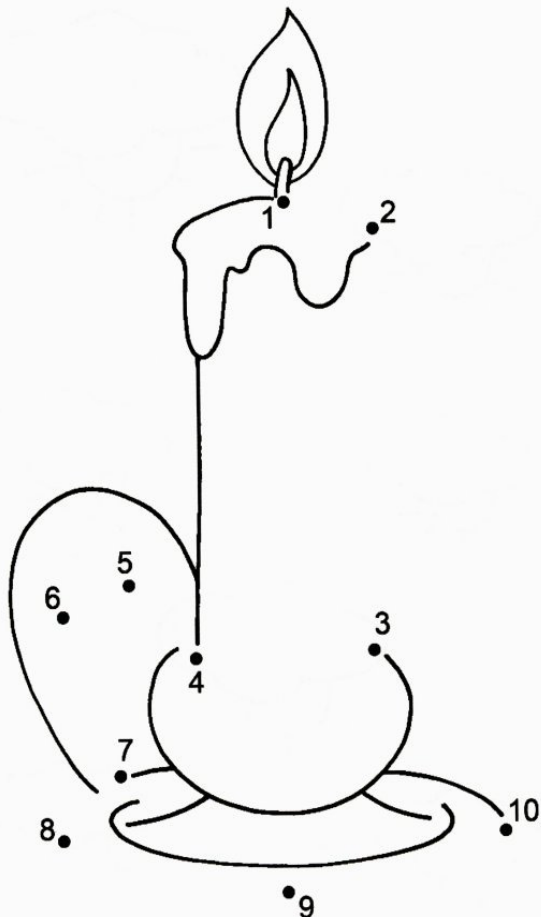
2. BRILLIANCE
3. HAVE FAITH
4. LAMP OR CANDLE
5. WALK BEHIND
6. ABLE TO BE SEEN
7. UNIVERSE
9. GLOW WITH LIGHT
11. NOT A LIE
12. PROPHET
14. NOT NIGHT
16. SON OF GOD

How many times
does the word
"LIGHT"
appear on the
front cover?



Dot-2-Dot

What light did Jesus talk about in Matthew 5:15?
Connect the dots and see!



UnScramble

Psalm 119:105: "Thy Word is a..."



_____ unto my _____ and a _____ unto my _____."

MAPL ETEF THIGL APHT



JESUS - THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Puzzle Fun

Answer Key: page 7

BiBLE FiLL-iN

John 8:12

Then spake _____ again unto
_____, saying, "I am the _____
of the _____: he that _____
_____ me shall not walk
in _____, but shall have
the _____ of _____."







Teach Me to Walk in the Light

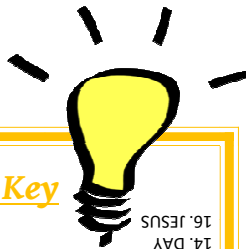
By Clara W. McMaster

Arrangement: Amanda Christensen
www.laughingdaffodills.wordpress.com

Teach me to walk in the light of his love. Teach me to pray to my

7
Fa - ther a - bove. Teach me to know all the things that are

12
right. Teach me, teach me to walk in the light.



Puzzle Answer Key

The dot to dot is a candle.

Dot-2-Dot

The word LIGHT is on the front cover 44 times.

How many "LIGHTS"?

**PATH
LIGHT
FEET
LAMP**

Unscramble

CrossCross

- Across
1. WORLD
 8. TREASURE
 10. STUMBLE
 13. NIGHT
 14. DARKNESS
 15. WALK
 17. GLORY
 18. RISE
- Down
2. RADIANCE
 3. BELIEVE
 4. LIGHT
 5. FOLLOW
 6. VISIBLE
 7. CREATION
 9. SHINE
 11. TRUTH
 12. ISAIAH
 14. DAY
 16. JESUS

Martin Luther's Daily Prayers

Morning Prayer:

In the morning, when you rise, you shall say:

"In the name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I give thanks to You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to keep me this day also from sin and all evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Then go to your work with joy, singing a hymn, or the Ten Commandments, or what your devotion may suggest.

Evening Prayer:

In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall say:

"In the name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I give thanks to You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day, and I pray You to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Then go to sleep promptly and cheerfully.

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For Parents:

We're cracked pots. We're jars of clay or "earthen vessels" with cracks where the light of Jesus peeps through.

As we raise our children, we very much feel the effects of sin within us. We know that we are impatient fallen creatures, and sometimes the burden of child-raising seems overwhelming. How will our children learn from us when we are so prone to wander? It can be disheartening, looking into our own dark hearts.

The Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian congregation about the ministry he's been given by Christ, and in a small way, our own ministry of child-raising can be compared to it. He says that, since we have this ministry by grace; we don't lose heart. We don't sneak-and-sly our way through parenting, tampering with God's Word, but we clearly speak the truth in love, knowing that God and our children see us. We don't preach ourselves and our sufficiency or ability, but we proclaim Jesus, the Light of the World, and the glorious Gospel to our children. We do this because we know that God, who spoke in creation to bring forth light, has shined in our hearts. He has spoken life to us. He has given the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

We're cracked pots, broken pottery, but the excellency of the power is of God, and not of us. The glory that shines from the face of Jesus Christ fills our hearts and escapes through the cracks in it, spilling onto our children, letting them see the reflection of Jesus who dwells within us by the Spirit. This is God's doing, His work, His power, His action. When our hearts break over the sickness, pain, suffering and death that are a part of this fallen creation, and when we reach out to love our neighbor, light peeps from the cracks in our hearts, by His excellent power. Pray that our children see the Light. Never lose heart!

***But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellency of the power
may be of God, and not of us.***

2 Corinthians 4:7

