

FAMILY GROUPS WEEK FOUR CYCLE B

Gospel: John 3:14-21 One family member reads the Gospel aloud.

Theme: *Jesus is our light.*

Opening Prayer: Jesus, thank you for being our light and showing us how to live. We want to help others know and love you. Amen.

Making Connections:

In this week's Gospel, Jesus is referred to as "the Light." When Jesus came to earth, some people did not know about God. They were in darkness because they could not see how much God loved them. Jesus showed the people God's love and how they could live as children of God. Jesus always told the truth about God. His life and his teaching help us to see God's love for us. When we know God's love for us, that makes us very happy.

FAMILY SHARING TIME

Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.

Preschool children: Jesus loves us very much. Do you love Jesus, too? How do you show him that you love him? Who else loves you? How do you know that they love you? Who do you love? How do you show your love to them? Let's talk about how we feel when people love us.

Primary-grade children: When Jesus came to earth, he told people about how wonderful God is and how much he loves everyone. Who has told you about God? What are some things you have learned about God? Can you be a "light" like Jesus and help other people see how good God is? Who are some of these people? Remember that we can be a light to others.

Preteens: Most crimes occur at night. Why? Why does Jesus connect darkness with evil and light with goodness? Why is Jesus compared to light? How can we bring Jesus' love and light to others? Share. Remember that our family can be a light to others.

ACTIVITY

Materials needed: one cup per family member, soil, beans, water

Family members plant two or three beans in each of their cups. Add water. Each person puts his/her cup in sunlight (window sill, patio, or bay window). Then plant beans in another cup and put it in a closet or pantry. Care for the germinating seeds.

Suggestion of the Week: Observe the changes and notice the effects that light and no light have on the bean plants.

Praying Together

Everyone gathers around the prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, lit candle, and the cups of planted beans.

Sing *This Little Light of Mine* or pray the Our Father. Share a sign of peace with everyone.