

Activity: **Decorating Candles**
Discussion: **Be the Light of the World**
Scripture: **Matthew 5:14**

Decorating Candles with Melted Crayons

Use butcher paper to cover the work area. You will also need a candle, lighter, and a bag full of old crayons. Have your students remove the paper coverings from the crayons. Each child will need a white candle.

The following precautions need to be carefully communicated and strictly enforced.

- A teacher must supervise the lit candle in the middle of the group.
- No one else is allowed to touch the candle.
- Nothing can be put into the flame other than a crayon with the paper removed.
- No crayon can stay in the flame for more than two seconds.

Each child (being closely supervised by the teacher) will take a turn holding a crayon over the burning candle and will then write on his candle with the crayon's melted wax. Be sure to tell them that the melted end of the candle is hot.

Have the children draw a cross on the candle to represent that Jesus is the light of the world. Then let the children write their names (or initials) on the candles to show that Jesus' light shines through them to the world. Be careful that crayons are not held over the flame for too long. This creates a bigger mess and the crayons are easier to write with when their ends are only slightly melted. A crayon will repeatedly need to be melted to complete each side of the candle.

Read from your Bible Matthew 5:14

- *What does Jesus mean when He says, "You are the light"?* (That we should live in such a way that our lives show Jesus' life and love [Matt. 5:16]; A light shows the way and by living for Jesus, other people can see the way to Him through us.)
- *When you're at school, why is it sometimes hard to be a light?* (I don't always want to do the right thing; some people think you're weird if you're a Christian; your friends want to do wrong things.)

SAY: God wants everyone to be saved and to go to heaven, but God has called us to be His witnesses. In other words, we are light of God that shines in a world full of darkness and if people are going to come to Jesus, they are going to come to Him because someone, like you and me, shares His love and message with them.

Challenge:

- (1) Everyone turn someone next to you, give them a high five and say, "Jesus loves you."

Great job!

(2) Now stand up, give three people a low five and say, "Jesus will take care of you."

(3) Now shake five people's hands and say, "You can trust Jesus."

On the count of three, everyone sit down as fast as you can.

Ready...one...two...everyone say, "Jesus loves you!" (Kids: Jesus loves you!)

Ready...one...two...everyone say, "You can trust Jesus!" (Kids: You can trust Jesus!)

Ready...one...two...three...sit down!

Be sure to praise different students for what they did: How fast they sat, how loud they were, for what a great smile they had, etc.

SAY: It's both easy and fun to tell other people about Jesus. It's as simple as saying, "Jesus loves you," or "Jesus will take care of you." You can shine Jesus' light to anyone you know by your words and by how you live.

Discussion Questions

This week how can you shine your light so others can see Jesus in you?

What do you think would be some things people do on a playground or in sports that show they are following the light?

What are things people might do when they are living in darkness?

Who is someone you know who shines Jesus' life and love?

The above activity was adapted from Kids Kount Publishing, Kingdom Quest, "I AM" series, "The Light of the World" Lesson 5.

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