



*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

December 14, 2014

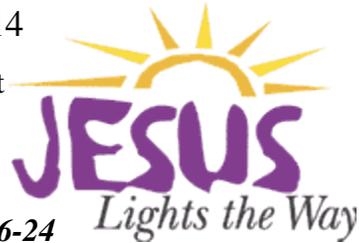
3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126 (3)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28



Christmas Lights. *Object:* A string of Christmas lights.

Christmas is the most wonderful season of the year! Don't you agree? I love all of the decorations, especially the lights. Many towns have a lighting contest to see who can decorate their home the best. Usually, the newspaper publishes pictures of the most beautifully decorated homes and during the holidays, people get in their cars and drive all around town to see the beautiful lighting displays. It is so easy to get so caught up the beauty of the lights that we might think that that is what Christmas is all about, but it isn't. You see, the lights aren't Christmas, the lights are just reminders of the One True Light that came to bring light into the world.

There is a beautiful song that we hear a lot at this time of year. It is called, "Shine On Us." The words go like this:

Lord, Let your light,
Light of your face shine on Us.
That we may be saved,
That we may have life,
To find our way in the darkest night,
Let your light shine on us.

Our Bible reading for today tells us that there was a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came to tell about the light so that everyone would believe. John wasn't the light, he only came to tell others about the light. Who was the light that John came to tell people about? That's right, it was Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

This Christmas, as we enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights, let's remember that while they are beautiful, they are only reminders of the one true light -- Jesus. Let's also remember that we have been called to tell others about Jesus -- the light of the world -- that they might be saved, that they might have life, that they might find their way in the darkest night.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia (Matt. 11:10)

Heavenly Father, this is such a beautiful time of the year. As we enjoy the lights of Christmas, we give thanks for your Son, the light of the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
-Used by permission, Sermons4kids

Word Search Puzzle

G O A F Z A H G S G O D Z L I
W E W D K A A S R A F L Z P J
N O E Z I J E P Z Q H N S G K
U O R S Z N O P K K W Y G F J
P A S L T X Q H K G R M A N G
V E N I D M G C N L I G H T H
M W W M G O M V B J R K C K M
R P G E Z C S V R B Z V M B M
V B Q N F B O Y R N V I K E L
S O G F N J F B Z A E X C L A
R T I R H I H P Y M N R S I N
D R K C T W V B J E B Z E E L
X U N S E T Y A R C A B N V A
R E E J T P R O P H E T T E B
L T M J N R N I P T I X A D T

GOD	TRUE	PROPHET	WORLD	SENT
MEN	VOICE	JOHN	WITNESS	MAN
LIGHT	BELIEVE	MESSIAH	TESTIFY	NAME

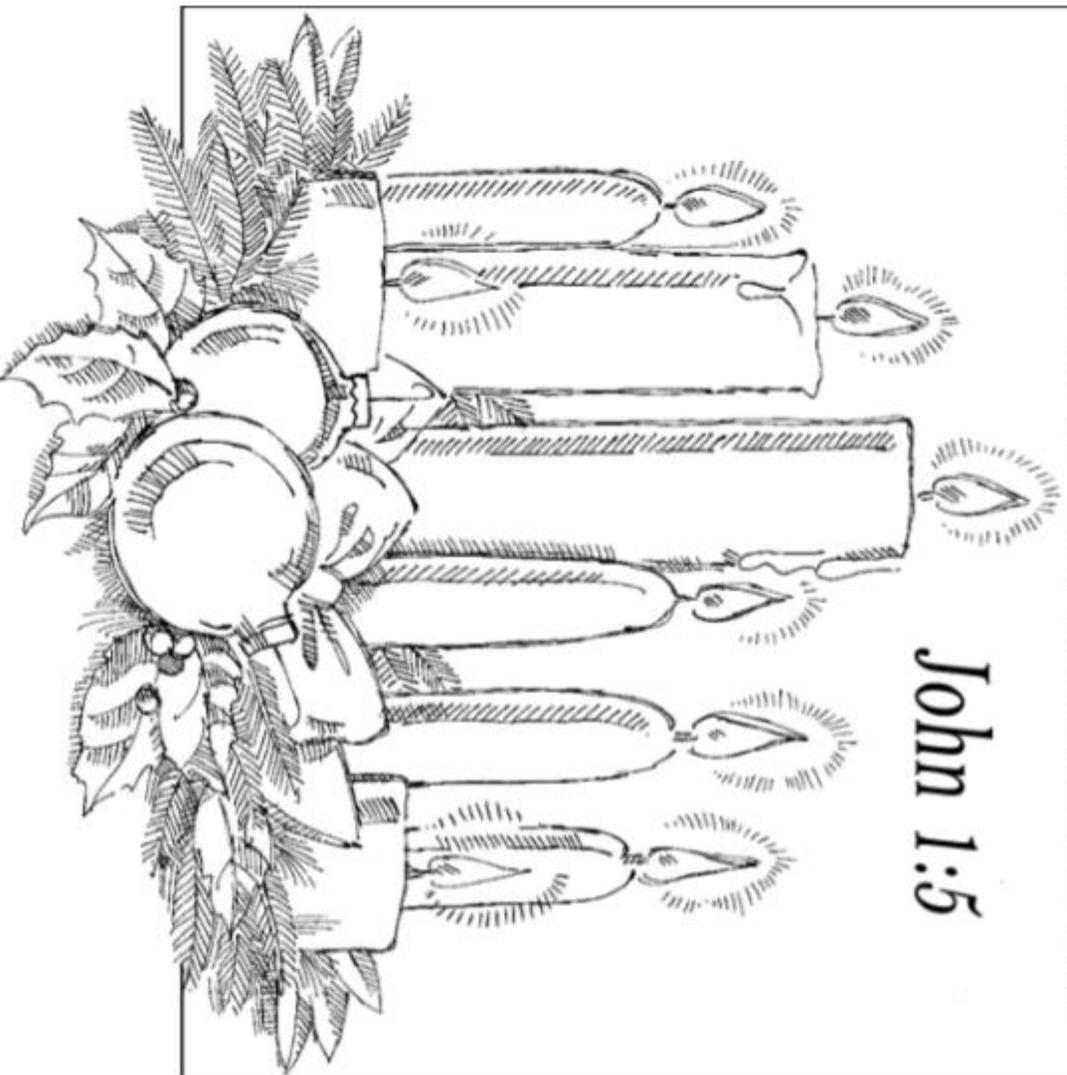
LIGHTS MARCH: Give each child a battery-operated candle to march around a designated area. As the children march, have the first child say, JESUS IS THE TRUE LIGHT, then the next child will shout out, JESUS IS THE TRUE LIGHT, and then the third child and continue through all the children.

J-E-S-U-S LETTERS: Let children draw and cut out large letters to spell J-E-S-U-S. Give the children markers to color and glitter to decorate the 5 letters. Hang the letters on a string of Christmas lights to hang on the classroom wall. Ask the children WHO is the LIGHT of the world? Yes, JESUS!!!

LIGHT CHRISTMAS CARDS: Provide the children with the materials to make a Christmas card with a candle on the front. Let children decorate the candle with a bright YELLOW flame and glitter. On the inside of the card, write JESUS IS THE TRUE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! Celebrate JESUS this Christmas.

The **LIGHT** shines in
the darkness and
the *darkness*
has **NOT** overcome it.

John 1:5



JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD