



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon

GOD WITH US #1 THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD HANUKAH 25 KISLEV



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

GOD CREATED ALL BY SPEAKING HIS WORD, BY HIMSELF ALONE, THEN BY SPEAKING HIS WORD, HE BECAME FLESH IN HIS SON, JESUS IS THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WHO CAME DOWN FROM ABOVE, TO BRING LIGHT TO THE WORLD, BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE.

SCRIPTURE READING (*Read Together*)

Isaiah 44:24 “Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; **that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;**”

Psalms 33:6 “**By the word of the LORD** were the heavens made; and all the host of them **by the breath of his mouth.**”

Luke 1:34-35 “Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**”

1 Timothy 3:16 “...God was manifest in the flesh....”

ORDER OF SERVICE:

1. Light Candles & Pray
2. Children's Songs & Story
3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring
4. Dismiss Kids to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching Song'
5. Adult Fellowship Break
6. Worship Song Set
7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer
8. Blessing Songs & Benediction

2. THE FEAST OF LIGHTS CELEBRATES THE FATHER OF LIGHTS WHO BRINGS HIS LIGHT INTO DARKNESS.

The Jewish word Hanukah means Dedication. The holiday of Hanukah celebrates an event that took place over 2,300 years ago in Israel. This event celebrates the miracle of God causing the oil from only one day to keep the lights shining in His temple for 8 days. This event also looks forward to when the Father of Lights, the Everlasting Father brought His light into the darkness of our world.

Isaiah 9:2 & 6 “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined...”⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”



The Festival of Lights began in the time of Alexander the Great, who conquered Syria, Egypt, and Palestine; but during his reign, he allowed the lands under his control to continue observing their own religions and retain a certain degree of their own national identity. About 100 years later, Antiochus IV rose to power and began to oppress the Jews severely. On 15 Kislev, November 24th of 168 BC, Antiochus began a massacre of the Jews, desecrating the Temple by sacrificing pigs on the altar and destroyed the Holy Scrolls. A Jewish man, Mattathias and his son Judah Maccabee led a revolt against Antiochus, succeeding in driving the Syrian army out of their land.

The Maccabee's then cleansed and re-dedicated the Temple on the 25th of Kislev. They searched the Temple for sacred oil to light the Menorah, but only one small jar of oil could be found. Miraculously, the small jar of oil, only enough for one day, burned for eight days. From that time forward, Jews have observed this holiday for eight days in honor of the miracle of the lights. The observance of Hanukah features the lighting one candle of a special menorah with eight branches, then lighting one new candle each night. Today, we celebrate this miracle of lights, and another more amazing miracle!

3. GOD, THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, BECAME FLESH BY HIS WORD MADE ALIVE IN THE VIRGIN MARY!

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

Why are we as Christians celebrating Hanukkah? Because the Father of Lights became flesh in His son, The Light of the World! We know from scriptures that give key dates for the conception of John, 6 months before the conception of Jesus, how to count the days (*See Dating from the Conception of John to the Birth Of Jesus Chart*). Jesus was born 9 months after God announced to Mary and to Joseph (through the angel), that she was to become the mother of the LORD JESUS, who was given His Father’s name, Yeshua, meaning “Salvation”.

John 5:43 “I am come in my Father’s name...”



From the scriptures we know that on the first day of Hanukkah, not only did God work the miracle of the oil to keep the Menorah light burning to light His temple during a terrible battle, but our God worked the miracle of shining the Light of His presence into the world, to become a baby in the womb of the virgin Mary!

*Luke 1:34-40 “Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷ **For with God nothing shall be impossible.** ³⁸ and Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; **be it unto me according to thy word.** And the angel departed from her.”*

May we completely surrender our hearts and our will to God like Mary and say, “**Lord Jesus be it unto me according to Thy word!**” It is the Father of Lights who shone the light of His word to become light in us, to shine away all the darkness that crowds in around us.

4. SCRIPTURES SHOW THAT THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WAS CONCEIVED DURING HANUKAH, the FEAST of DEDICATION, OR FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS.

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

Every year we remember the wonderful story of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and it never grows old! First God prepared the one whose voice, in the spirit of Elijah, would cry out in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord!

Luke 1:5-13 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ... But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well on in years. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, ... the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.”



1 Chronicle 24:3, 7-19 “With the help of Zadok...David separated them into divisions for their appointed order of ministering...The first lot fell to Je-hoia-rib...and the eighth to Abijah ...”

Luke 1:23-24 “When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

Zechariah returned to his wife at the end of the feast of Pentecost and John was conceived in the 11th week. Elizabeth was in her 6th month when Mary came to announce the miracle that she was pregnant with the Son of God, during the Festival of Lights!

DATING from the CONCEPTION OF JOHN to the BIRTH OF JESUS

The Scriptures reveal to us that John was conceived after Pentecost when Zechariah went home from his priestly duties, Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant when Jesus was conceived in Mary, and that Jesus was born when the Jews were gathered to Jerusalem for Tabernacles when the whole world was also taxed.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PRIESTLY DIVISION</u>	<u>Number & Name</u>	<u>Week # of</u>
	<u>ON DUTY</u>	<u>of Hebrew Month</u>	<u>Course Served</u>
	1)Jehoiarib	1 Nissan	1st
	2)Jedaiah		2nd
Passover	All 24 on Duty		3rd
	3)Harim		4th
	4)Seorim	2 Iyar	5th
	5)Malkiijah		6th
	6)Mijamin		7th
	7)Hakkoz		8th
	8)Abijah	3 Sivan	9th
Pentecost	All 24 on Duty		10th
Zechariah Went Home	9)Jeshua	John Conceived day after Pentecost	11th
	10)Shecaniah		12th
		4 Tammuz	
		5 Av	
		6 Elul	
Tabernacles (Boothes)		7 Tishri	
		8 Cheshvan	
		9 Kislev	
<i>Elisabeth was in 6th Month of Pregnancy when Mary came to visit</i>			<i># Days from Conception</i>
<i>If Mary Conceived Jesus on 1st Day of Hanukah</i>		<u>Kislev 25</u>	<i>for Normal 280 Days</i>
		10 Tevet	29
		11 Schewat	59
		12 Adar	88
Passover		1 Nissan	118
		2 Iyar	147
Pentecost		3 Sivan	177
		4 Tammus	206
		5 Av	236
		6 Elul	265
Then Jesus was born at Tabernacles 15th day of	7 Tishri	After 280 Days Gestation	

If this dating derived from tracing historical evidence established by the scriptures is correct, then Jesus was born on our calendar date of **Sabbath, September 14, 5 BC,** on Hebrew date **Tishri 15, 3757**

6. WHEN THE ANGEL TOLD MARY THAT SHE WAS THE VIRGIN OF PROPHECY ABOUT TO BECOME THE MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH, SHE WAS SO EXCITED, SHE HURRIED TO GO TELL HER COUSIN ELIZABETH!

Galatians 4:4-5 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ⁵ to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

As embryo’s in their mother’s womb, Jesus and John were so excited to meet each other, that baby John leaped for joy!



Luke 1:39-43 “And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; ⁴⁰ And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. ⁴¹ And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: ⁴² And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. ⁴³ And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Here John met Jesus, the very breath of God’s own being of Spirit, the One who created the heavens and the earth and him! The One who came out from God, begotten in form as this little baby in Bethlehem! John jumped for joy in His mother’s womb when He knew that He was in the presence of God the Savior in Mary!

ELIZABETH RECOGNIZED MARY AS THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVEN AS EMBRYO’S IN THEIR MOTHER’S WOMB, JESUS AND JOHN KNEW EACH OTHER!

7. WE CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF LIGHTS, AND OUR SAVIOR GOD WHO CAME AS LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

*1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*

The people called JESUS Emmanuel, because He is “God with us”



*Matthew 1:21-23 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins.”²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,²³ **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**”*

This event when the Father of Lights came to become the Light of the World in His Son, occurred during the Feast of Dedication, called Hanukah, because the Jewish word Hanukah means dedication. It was at this Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, that Jesus made a most profound statement of His identity as God:

*John 10:22-31 “And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.”²³ And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon’s porch.²⁴ Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? **If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.**²⁵ **Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me.**²⁶ **But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.**²⁷ **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**²⁸ **and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.³⁰ **I and my Father are one.**³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him....”*



The Jews wanted to stone Jesus because He a man, said He was God!

8. JESUS WAS BORN WITH THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE!

John 14:10 “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.**”

When Jesus said that the Father is in Him doing the works, **the Jews understood that He was proclaiming Himself to be the same as God** and wanted to stone Him. God came to manifest Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ, in order to give eternal life to His sheep.

John 1:1-5 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... ⁴ **IN HIM WAS LIFE; and the life was the light of men.**” ⁵ **And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**”

Jesus shines His light into every darkness that comes to our lives, and we have been born again to rule over the darkness, but how?

Ephesians 6:12 “For **we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**”

We must always remember that our battle is not against those who are victims of the powers of darkness in the fallen world around us, but against Satan who rules the darkness. **Jesus lives in our hearts,** with all His power available for us **to shine His marvelous light,** to overcome the darkness, with the love and salvation of Jesus Christ.



1 Peter 2:9-10 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you **out of darkness into his marvellous light;** ¹⁰ which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

May we be every bit as joyous as Mary as she carried the life of the Savior in her womb, and as joyous as the Maccabees when God gave the miracle of lights to rededicate the Temple. **May we let His light shine in us, as we also rededicate the temple of our life to God!**

9. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME

1. Jesus is the Father of Lights who came out from the Father above to manifest Himself in flesh, in Jesus Christ, the son.
2. The Feast of Lights, Hanukah, celebrates the Father of Lights who brings His light to shine in the darkness.
3. God, the Father of Lights, became flesh by His word made alive, in the womb of Mary.
4. Scriptures show that the Light of the World, was conceived during the Feast of Dedication, also called Hanukah.
5. We can know the dates of the conception of John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus, by very clear clues given in God's word.
6. When Mary discovered that she was the virgin of prophecy who would give birth to the Savior she hurried to tell Elizabeth.
7. We celebrate the miracle of lights, and our God who became a man, to bring us salvation in Jesus Christ.
8. Jesus was born with the power to give life because He is God.

1 John 3:2-3 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

So we proclaim with our Lord Jesus that He is LORD, and on this Feast of Dedication, we proclaim our dedication to He who is God in all His glory, who is able to keep His light shining in the world, through His holy people who love Him, until He comes!



LET'S PRAY THIS PRAYER TOGETHER:

Our Father in Heaven, We offer up our lives to You and praise You, the Father of Lights, who came down as God, to become flesh in the Light of the World! Thank you Lord, that you fill our hearts and lives with life, and light to disperse the darkness, and that You light the path for our future! We rededicate our temple to You, and pray that Your life will shine brightly in us and through us as we consecrate ourselves for your service, **in Jesus name, Amen.**

10. CHILDREN'S STORY: Let the Light of Jesus Shine in You!

Today we are celebrating the first day of the Feast of Dedication, called Hanukah, when the people of God were rededicating their temple to God after a very bad king had tried to destroy it. They needed enough Holy oil to fill the 7 lights of the Lampstand, each day so the lights would burn for 8 days to complete the cleansing of the temple, but they had only enough oil to burn for one day. They prayed and lit the lights. God gave them a miracle and the lights burned not just one day, but for all eight days of the dedication of the temple! They were so happy that God saved and blessed them!

When you received Jesus as your Savior, did you know that you belong to Him, and your body is a temple of His Holy Spirit?

*1 Corinthians 6:19 "What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you**, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

Isn't that wonderful, that you belong to Jesus, and God is able to keep His light burning brightly in your temple too! That means that you never have to worry about not knowing which way to go, because Jesus is the Light of the World and He will show you!



Jesus was speaking on a mountainside one day, helping people understand how to love and forgive one another. After you experience God's love and forgiveness, you understand something that many people do not know - that Jesus has enough love to give to everyone, even to our enemies, then He loves us even more! Jesus wants us to shine the light of His love to others like He loves us. Isn't the love of Jesus wonderful? Today and every day, let God's love and forgiveness shine from your heart for everyone to see!

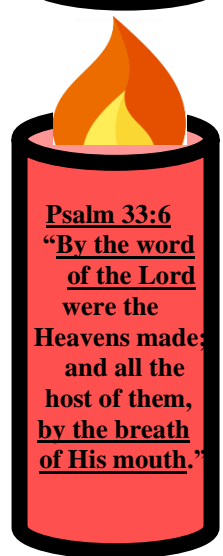
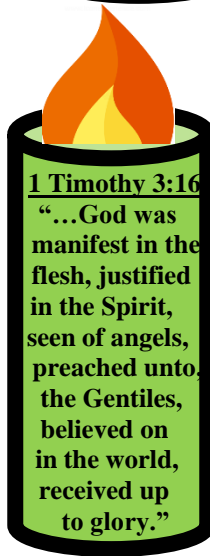
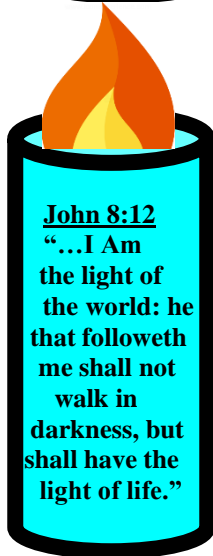
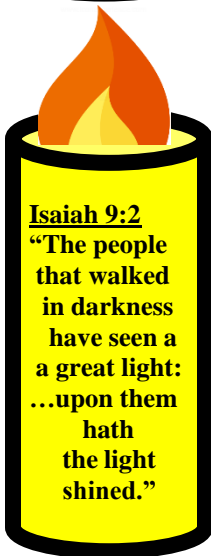
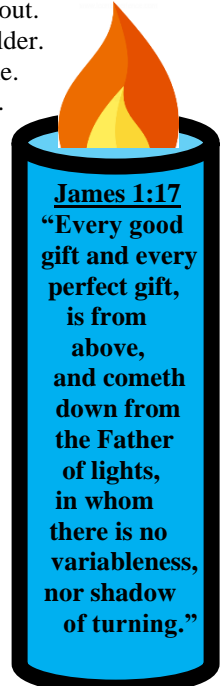
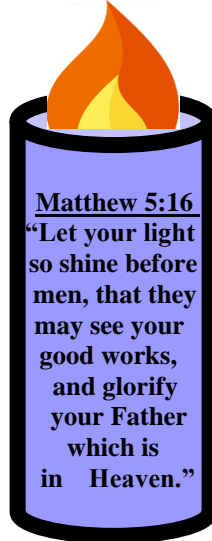
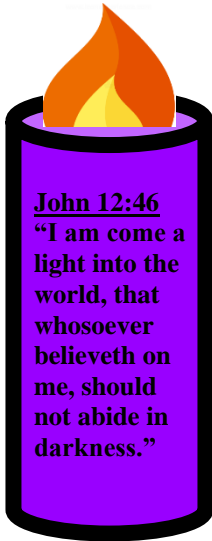
The Menorah that we light for the 8 days of the Feast of Dedication called Hanukah, reminds us that Jesus came down from the Father of Lights to be the Light of the World, and every day we can shine our light for Him! Let's sing, "This Little Light of Mine".

**THE FATHER OF LIGHTS CAME DOWN
TO BECOME FLESH IN OUR LORD JESUS,
HIS SON, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**



DIRECTIONS for GOSPEL CRAFT:

1. Cut & staple holder from 2 large paper plates as shown, spreading base to stand.
2. Copy scripture lights onto card stock for each child and cut out.
3. Cut out Light and Purpose word strips & glue to front of holder.
5. Apply glue and gold glitter, or gold glitter glue to each flame.
6. Glue the bottom of the candles between the plates as shown.
7. Punch holes at side and attach Yarn or Fuzzy Stick handle.





Matthew 1:21-23 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”