Make: Until the Break of Day Ornaments

At a Glance:
Jacob's wrestling from the coming of night until the breaking of dawn pictures the darkness we experience during times of spiritual struggle in our journey along the path to heaven. Just as darkness makes it difficult to see where we are going, lack of spiritual light (truth) obscures the path to heaven. Students will discuss darkness and then use stencils to create a hanging ornament and decorate it with a quote to illustrate the light of truth from the Lord's Word.



Supplies Needed for Each Student:
- *Darkness and Light* quotation page
- Sun Templates (2) printed on heavy paper
- thick paper—watercolor paper or lightweight cardboard will work best
- yellow and orange water-based paint made up in a shallow tray to dip sponges in
- sponge cut into pieces to dab paint
- sharp scissors
- paper clips
- fine felt tip or metallic pens
- *optional:* yellow or orange ribbon and hot glue gun to create a hanger
- *optional:* hairdryer to speed up paint drying time

Teacher Preparation:
- *Optional:* Cut ribbon to good lengths for hanging.
- *Optional:* Heat glue gun.

Directions:
1. Shut your eyes for a moment and experience darkness. What do you notice? What sounds are in the room? How does the air smell? Can you sense anyone close to you?
2. Now without opening your eyes, stand up and walk carefully around the room. What senses can help you "see"?

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3. Open your eyes. Compare your experience of moving through the room with your eyes open with the one with your eyes closed. What was similar? What was different?
4. When there is light, our natural eyes help us see clearly. We can see beauty, ugliness and be aware of dangers around us. As the light becomes dimmer, colors become hard to see and shapes become vague.
5. Our spirit has an inward sight that works in a similar way to our natural sight. We walk in the light of heaven when our spiritual eyes are open to what is true. We have an accurate perspective on the beauty of genuinely loving thoughts and actions and the ugliness of selfishness. When selfishness clouds our thinking instead of true ideas, we focus only on what we want and lose the perspective of the light of heaven.
6. Distribute *Darkness and Light* student pages. Read the paragraphs on darkness with the students.
7. In today's story Jacob wrestled during the darkness of night. This pictures "temptations" that people experience when they follow the path towards heaven. It is only through this process that we see what is false and harmful, reject it and try again.
8. Jacob held on all night until the sun rose. The rising sun pictures the new light that we receive from heaven when we have overcome in temptation.
9. We will be making a hanging ornament in the shape of the sun and decorating it with a quote from the Word about light.
10. Invite students to select a quote on light and one of the sun stencils.
11. Have them cut out the stencil they chose
12. Place the stencil over blank paper and use a paperclip to keep the template from moving.
13. Lightly sponge paint through the template on to the paper.
14. Remove template carefully.
15. Allow the paint to dry. *Optional:* Use hairdryer to speed up drying time.
16. Cut out the painted sun shape using sharp scissors.
17. Using a fine tip or metallic pen, copy the quotation about light on to the sun shape. Consider writing the quote in creative ways e.g. spiral, sun rays, around the edge, etc.
18. *Optional:* Use the pens to decorate the quotation.
19. *Optional:* Fold a piece of ribbon to create a loop. Glue to the back of the ornament using a hot glue gun.

DARKNESS

‘Darkness’ occurs when false ideas exist in place of truth, and 'thick darkness' when evil desires exist in place of good ones, or what amounts to the same, when hatred exists in place of charity. When hatred exists in place of charity the darkness is so thick that the person is not even aware of its being an evil, let alone of its being so great an evil as to thrust him down in the next life into hell. People who are steeped in hatred find delight and life in it. This delight and life have the effect that a person thinks that hatred is good. Whatever favors a person's pleasure and desire, because it favors his love, he feels as good—so much so that when he is told it is from hell he can hardly believe it. (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1860).

When a person experiences temptation he is besieged by false ideas and evil desires which block the flow of light from the Divine, that is, of truth and good loves; and that person is so to speak in darkness. Darkness in the next life is nothing other than being besieged by false ideas, for these take away the light and so take away from the one undergoing temptation any sense of consolation gained from truths. But when the person comes out of temptation light appears together with the spiritual heat that goes with it, that is, truth together with the good that goes with it. This brings the person cheerfulness after his distress; and that cheerfulness is the morning that follows night in the next life. The reason why good love is perceived then and truth appears is that after temptation truth and good penetrate more deeply within and become firmly rooted. For while a person undergoes temptation he hungers for good and thirsts for truth, and so when he comes out of temptation he takes in good like one hungry for food and receives truth like one thirsting for drink. In addition to this, when the light from the Divine appears false ideas and evil desires are removed; and once they have been removed there is a means of access for truth and good to penetrate more deeply within. These are the reasons why after temptations the good of love appears together with the light from the Lord that goes with it (*Arcana Coelestia* 6829).

Light



And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light (Genesis 1:3).

And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, like…clear shining after rain (2 Samuel 23:3-5).

The Lord is my light and my salvation (Psalm 27:1).

Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me (Psalm 43:3).

Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness (Psalm 112:4).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

Come and let us walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2:5).

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2).

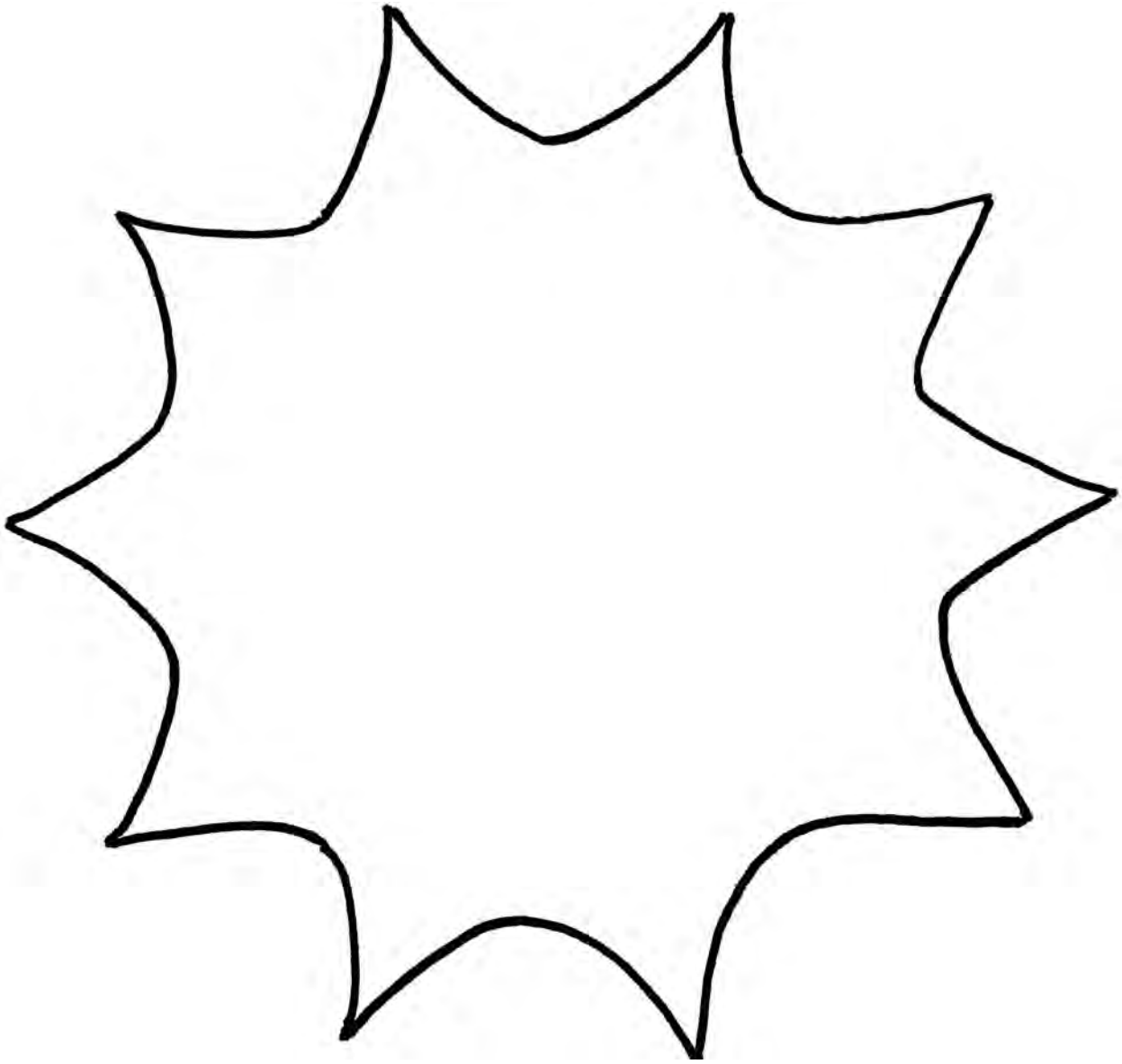
If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday (Isaiah 58:10).

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you (Isaiah 60:1).

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

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Sun Template



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