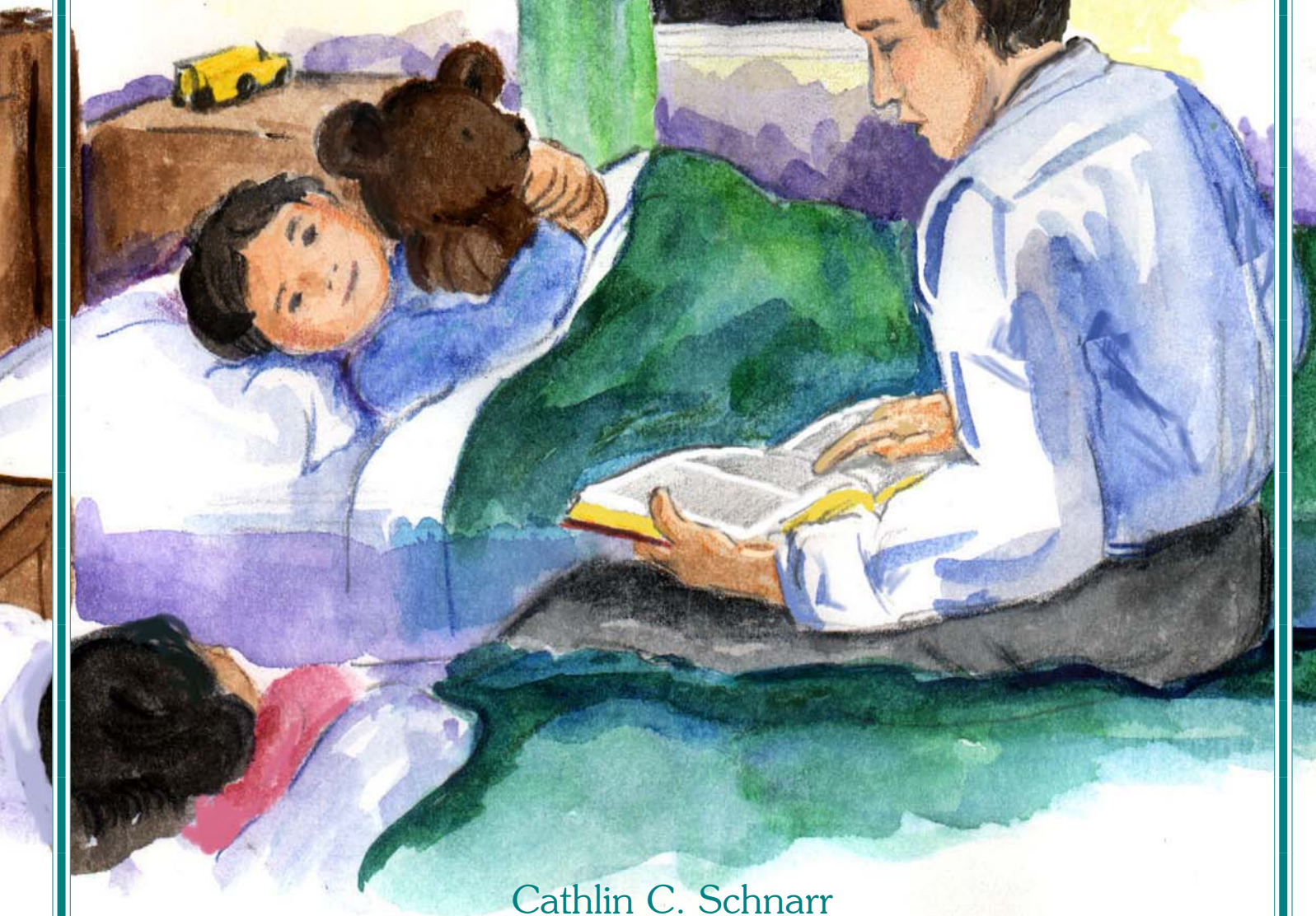


# The Word is a Light to Your Path

Based on Psalm 119



Cathlin C. Schnarr  
inspired by Rev. Stephen Cole's children's talk  
Illustrated by Marguerite Acton

© 2011 General Church Office of Education

It was bedtime for Jordan and Alice. Mama said, "Time to brush your teeth, and put on your jammies!"

Alice raced up the stairs with Jordan. They brushed their teeth and got their pajamas on, Then they jumped into their beds and hid under the covers.

Suddenly Jordan said, "I need my Woobie!" Jordan's big teddy bear, Woobie made him feel safe. He put the bear in his bed and crawled under the covers.



Daddy came upstairs and sat down on Alice's bed. He opened the Word to read, as he did every night. Jordan and Alice loved listening to Daddy read from the Word. He began,

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.... Why do you think the Word is called a light?" Daddy asked. "The Word doesn't look like a lamp. We don't see light coming from it. When we read things like this, we have to think about what lamps do and how the Word might be like them. Wait a minute," said Daddy, and he went out of the bedroom.



When he came back, he was holding a brass dish.

“Look what I have!” Daddy said, and he brought the dish over so that Alice and Jordan could see it. There was oil inside it and a piece of string. Alice could smell olive oil that her mom used for cooking.

“Why did you put olive oil in Mama’s dish?” Alice asked.

“Watch this,” said Daddy . He took out a match and lit the string. He set the dish on the dresser and then turned off the light. “I’ve made an oil lamp,” he added. The room glowed with the light from the lamp.

“Lamps that we read about in the Word are not like the lights we have today. Lamps in ancient times were like dishes or cups, filled with oil. Wicks stuck out of the oil that could be lit with fire to give light.





“Why do you think people use lamps or candles or lights?”  
Daddy asked.

“To see when it’s dark.” said Jordan.

“ Right, so they can see. If we try to walk in the dark we may get lost or we may trip and fall, so we use a light to see the way. Psalm 119 says that the Lord’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.

“The Word shows us the way to go in life, just like a lamp can help us see where to walk. When we don’t know what to do, reading the Lord’s Word can help us see what to do. This is how the Word can be a light for our path.”

Daddy gave Jordan big hugs and kisses and Alice big hugs and kisses and tucked them into bed. Then they said the Lord’s Prayer together. Daddy blew out the flame burning in Mama’s dish. “It’s time to go to sleep now. I love you.”

Jordan didn't like the dark. It was scary.

He squeezed Woobie teddy bear. Jordan felt a little better, holding Woobie, but he was still scared.

Pretty soon he said, "Alice are you awake?" It was quiet. She was asleep.

"Daddy !" Jordan called.

His daddy came into the room. "What is the matter, Jordan?"

"Daddy , I'm scared! It's too dark !" Jordan cried.

Daddy said, "You know that Mama and I are just in the other room."

"But I'm scared!"

"Let me show you something," said Daddy



Daddy got Mama's brass dish and the Word.

"Feel this lamp," Daddy said. Jordan felt Mama's brass dish. It was still warm. "This is like the Lord's love for you. He loves you and wants you to be safe. Even when Mom and I aren't right near you, Jordan, the Lord is always with you, and with His strength you can be stronger than anything scary.

"That's one of the reasons why it's good to read the Word every night. The Word is one way He talks to us. He can speak to us and help us to be strong. Would you like to say the Lord's Prayer again?" Jordan held Daddy's hand.



Together they said,

“Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:9-13.)

Jordan felt better. He didn't feel so scared any more.

Daddy kissed Jordan on the head and said quietly as he left the room, “I love you Jordan, and the Lord loves you too.”

“I love you, Daddy.”





Jordan looked at the Word, as he lay in the dark. He leaned over and carefully opened it. The white pages looked like they almost glowed in the night.

He remembered a part of the psalm Daddy had read. “Your word is a lamp to my feet...You are my shield.” Then he said quietly, “I love you Lord.”

Jordan closed his eyes and felt warm. He felt the Lord with him. Softly and quietly, he fell asleep feeling safe and happy.

