



Making lanterns – light for others

AT A GLANCE



Place

Indoors at a table



Key idea

Making a lantern and discovering that Jesus makes us lights for others



Effort

Materials 20 min · Preparation 20 min



45 minutes



6–10 children



3–6 years



LED, not candles



Materials

- ☐ clean jars (e.g. jam jars) or sturdy paper bags
- ☐ LED tea lights (one per child)
- ☐ coloured tissue paper, torn into pieces
- ☐ wire or string for handles, short sticks
- ☐ paste or craft glue, brushes



Schedule

0–5'

Arrival – Darken the room and put an LED light in the middle: what changes when a light shines?

5–10'

Devotion – Jesus says: You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14–16). When we are kind, things get brighter for others.

10–35'

Making – Brush paste on the jar and stick on coloured paper pieces. A leader attaches the handle.

35–42'

Lantern walk – Put the LED light inside, darken the room or go outside briefly and sing a song.

42–45'

Closing – Each child thinks: who will I bring light to with my lantern – grandma, neighbours, a friend?



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 Brush paste on the outside of the jar.
- 2 Stick the coloured paper pieces close together – they can overlap.
- 3 Finally brush paste over the top so that everything holds.
- 4 Let the lantern dry; a leader attaches the wire handle.
- 5 Put the LED light inside and switch it on.

 **Example:** “Look how colourful your lantern shines! Just as the lantern shines, you can shine for others with a smile.”

Safety

- Only use LED lights, no real candles.
- Check jar rims beforehand; for very young children use paper bags instead of jars.
- Only a leader bends the wire.

Variations

- Give the lanterns away – to neighbours or older people in the church.
- Make a little lantern procession around the church hall.

Something to think about

How can you be a light for someone today?