



April 2011

The Power of the Light

DRAW NEAR—*Worship and and prepare your heart to hear from God's Word.*

This month, we are going to talk about the power of God's Light and how we can share that power with others. Pass out small tapered candles to all the girls in your group. Light your candle and turn off the lights in the room. Stand in a circle and lead your group in the song "This Little Light of Mine" while you pass your "light" around the circle, until all the candles are lit.

Listen to worship music of your choice and pray for God to reveal His truths through His word today.

GO DEEP—*Dig into the Bible to learn truths from God's Word.*

GROUP LEADER: Set a lamp on a table in front of your group, but don't plug it in. Ask your group to identify the item on the table and tell you what it does. Get a volunteer to try to turn on the lamp. Of course, since it's not plugged in, it won't come on.

This lamp looks really good, right? But it doesn't work. It doesn't work because it's not plugged into any power source.

Plug the lamp in and turn it on.

Now the lamp gives off light, which is its purpose. Christians are a lot like this lamp. We may look really good, but if we don't plug into God's power, then we can't fulfill our purpose, which is to share His light with others.

*Adapted from an object lesson in **Dare to be a Daniel** curriculum published by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.*

In order for us to be able to reach our full potential and fulfill our purpose, we have to "plug in" to the power of God. Through studying God's Word, spending time in prayer and serving others, we can access God's power in our lives.

Plug into the power of God's Word: Read Matthew 4:1-11. In this story, Jesus was tempted by Satan. This is an important story for us, because it shows us that Jesus was fully man and that He understands how it feels to be tempted. Think about the power Jesus had. He could have snapped His fingers and made Satan disappear, but instead, He chose to be an example for us of what to do when we are faced with temptation.

How did Jesus fight Satan's temptations? _____

Jesus chose to use God's Word as His weapon against Satan and his lies. Jesus had spent time studying the Word of God. He had committed Scripture to memory. He understood what the Scriptures meant. And He used those Scriptures as His weapon to fight temptation.

Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any towedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." In Galatians 6:17, the Bible is called the "sword of the Spirit."

What do those two verses tell you about the Bible? _____

The Bible is our first power source. It is our defense when we are being tempted. It is our refuge when we need comfort. It is our guide when we are lost or confused.

When we spend time in God's Word, we have *power*.

Plug into the power of prayer: Our second power source is prayer. Prayer is our way to communicate and spend time with God. Not only is prayer powerful, but prayer is necessary for us to be close to God.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of Hannah. She desperately wanted to have children, and went to the temple to pray and cry out to God. Check out her story in 1 Samuel 1:1-21.

Hannah knew that prayers had power. She wanted a son and recognized that it would take a miracle for her dream to come true, so she went to her only power source—God. She poured her heart out to Him in prayer. Hannah was praying so earnestly and was so broken before God that Eli (the priest) thought she was drunk. But God saw Hannah’s heart, and He answered her prayer.

Just like Hannah, we have to realize that we are powerless without God. When we are faithful and cry out to God in prayer, He is faithful to answer our prayers.

Plug into the power of service: You’ve probably heard the saying, “Actions speak louder than words.” That is especially true when we are trying to witness to others for God. It’s easy for us to talk the talk, but walking the walk can be hard. People are watching our every move, so we have to make sure that our actions line up with God’s Word.

John 15:2 says, “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” One of the sweetest ways that we can show God’s love to others is through service. Have you ever seen the insurance commercial where one person does the right thing and it sparks a chain reaction? That’s what our lives should look like to unbelievers. God pours out His love into us so that we can pour it out for others.

When we serve others out of a pure heart, our relationship with God is strengthened. Our ability to witness to unbelievers improves when they see us act like Jesus. Service is definitely a source of power in the lives of Christians. Service is one way we can share the power of our God with others.

GET REAL—Apply God’s Word to your life.

Are you ready to plug into God’s power? With your group, talk about some ways that you can be more committed in each of the following areas:

Bible Study and Scripture Memorization: _____

Prayer: _____

Serving Others: _____

Now take those ideas and put them into *action*. Remember, when God is on your side, you have the *power* to do amazing things.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Christina Hopper is 24 years old and attends Sulphur Springs FWB Church in Northport, AL where she teaches the Junior Youth Group. She is pursuing a degree in English and enjoys watching baseball with her little brother.