Light the World Christmas Program

Light in Every Dispensation December 7, 2019

Call all the children out in the hall to tell them the plan and pick 7 readers. They will hold the signs and read the scriptures associated with each dispensation.

Opening: (*lights dim*) In each dispensation of time, the Lord has blessed the earth with light. The first thing created was light and it was divided from the darkness. “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” Genesis 1:3

A fun pneumonic technique that helps me remember the prophets called at the beginning of each dispensation goes like this: **A**dam **E**ats **N**uts **A**nd **M**any **C**hristmas **S**weets. The first prophet of the first dispensation was Adam. Kind of straightforward as far as this pneumonic phrase goes.

(1st child steps forward with sign-*lights on*)

**A**dam “And in that day Adam blessed God and was filled [with light], and began to prophesy concerning all the families of the earth, saying: Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again in the flesh I shall see God.” Moses 5:10

Over time, people chose to reject the truths taught by Adam and others during that first dispensation, and light was withdrawn from the earth for a period of time. (*apostasy-lights off*) We refer to these periods of darkness as apostasies. Thus began the pattern of prophetic dispensations. After each prophet we mention tonight, an apostasy will follow--- all but one dispensation ends this way. I know it’s EATing at you. Our next prophet is Enoch.

(2nd child steps forward with sign-*lights on*)

**E**noch “The Lord said unto Enoch: Behold these thy brethren; they are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I gave unto them their [light], in the day I created them” Moses 7:32

The city of Enoch was so righteous it was taken to heaven, but there were others on earth who eventually chose their own paths rather than follow the teachings of the prophets. They were again without light. (*apostasy- lights off*)

Heavenly Father in his infinite mercy reached out a third time and called another prophet to the earth. N in our phrase represents Noah and though the people thought he was NUTS, we know how the story goes.

(3rd child steps forward with sign-*lights on*)

**N**oah “And thus the Lord caused stones to shine in darkness, to give light unto men, women, and children, that they might not cross the great waters in darkness.” Ether 6:3

Light was again taken forgranted as people forgot to rely on its source. (*apostasy- lights off*).

AND Abraham was prepared to kindle the flame of faith a fourth time.

(4th child steps forward with sign-*lights on*)

**A**braham “Behold, I will lead thee by my hand, and I will take thee, to put upon thee my name, even the Priesthood of thy father, and my [light] shall be over thee.” Abraham 1:18

Abraham walked with God. Light was abundant. Promises were made to him and his seed and yet, those living in that dispensation still chose to be enticed to follow after the beguiling ways of the world rather than to live according to God’s laws. (*lights off*)

MANY of us might consider giving up after four attempts to save mankind and provide light, but not Heavenly Father. Moses was the next prophet called.

(5th child steps forward with sign-*lights on*)

**M**oses “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.” Exodus 13:21

And then, as in times before, people refused light. (*lights off*)

And, as in times before, Heavenly Father chose to reach out in love to his wayward children. Over 2000 years ago, a single star lit up the sky to proclaim the birth of our Savior and begin another dispensation. God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son. “And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day.” Helaman 14:3. This is what we celebrate during the CHRISTMAS season.

(6th child steps forward with sign-*lights on*)

Jesus **C**hrist “…I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12

God sent His Son to not only bring light once again to the earth, but also to perform His infinite atonement for all mankind.

Christ came to earth knowing His role as our Savior. He knew the people would reject Him and those he had called as prophets, seers and revelators just as they had rejected those that had come before. This period of darkness is referred to as the Great Apostasy. (*lights off*)

As a final effort to provide light to His children, another prophet was called. This SWEET dispensation of the fulness of times began in the year 1820.

(7th child steps forward with sign-*lights on*)

Joseph **S**mith “I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me… When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!”

\*Bishop shares some thoughts.

The children have a special surprise to close our program tonight. Please follow them reverently out into the hall and carefully take a mason jar with you. The children will show by example where to present your gift of light.

“AND IN THAT DAY ADAM BLESSED GOD AND WAS FILLED [WITH *LIGHT*], AND BEGAN TO PROPHESY CONCERNING ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH, SAYING: BLESSED BE THE NAME OF GOD, FOR BECAUSE OF MY TRANSGRESSION MY EYES ARE OPENED, AND IN THIS LIFE I SHALL HAVE JOY, AND AGAIN IN THE FLESH I SHALL SEE GOD.” (MOSES 5:10)

“THE LORD SAID UNTO ENOCH: BEHOLD THESE THY BRETHREN; THEY ARE THE WORKMANSHIP OF MINE OWN HANDS, AND I GAVE UNTO THEM THEIR [*LIGHT*], IN THE DAY I CREATED THEM” (MOSES 7:32)

“AND THUS THE LORD CAUSED STONES TO SHINE IN DARKNESS, TO GIVE *LIGHT* UNTO MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, THAT THEY MIGHT NOT CROSS THE GREAT WATERS IN DARKNESS.” (ETHER 6:3)

“BEHOLD, I WILL LEAD THEE BY MY HAND, AND I WILL TAKE THEE, TO PUT UPON THEE MY NAME, EVEN THE PRIESTHOOD OF THY FATHER, AND MY [*LIGHT*] SHALL BE OVER THEE.” (ABRAHAM 1:18)

“AND THE LORD WENT BEFORE THEM BY DAY IN A PILLAR OF A CLOUD, TO LEAD THEM THE WAY; AND BY NIGHT IN A PILLAR OF FIRE, TO GIVE THEM *LIGHT*; TO GO BY DAY AND NIGHT.” (EXODUS 13:21)

“…I AM THE *LIGHT* OF THE WORLD: HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE *LIGHT* OF LIFE.” (JOHN 8:12)

“I SAW A PILLAR OF *LIGHT* EXACTLY OVER MY HEAD, ABOVE THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE SUN, WHICH DESCENDED GRADUALLY UNTIL IT FELL UPON ME…WHEN THE *LIGHT* RESTED UPON ME I SAW TWO PERSONAGES, WHOSE BRIGHTNESS AND GLORY DEFY ALL DESCRIPTION, STANDING ABOVE ME IN THE AIR. ONE OF THEM SPAKE UNTO ME, CALLING ME BY NAME AND SAID, POINTING TO THE OTHER—THIS IS MY BELOVED SON. HEAR HIM!” (Joseph Smith History 1:16-17)