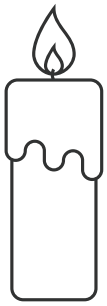
THE CAMP CONNECTION

ENJOYING SOME GREYSTONE FUN AT HOME. WE ♥ AND MISS OUR AUGUST CAMPERS!



VESPERS: A GREYSTONE TRADITION

Every summer at camp, we have a special Vespers tradition we enjoy with you. We start the night telling a story of light, helping to show that you each have a light inside that can shine brightly. We then light individual candles together, holding our light high, showing how brightly we can shine together when we are part of a group. We then close the event by explaining how you can take your light home with you out into the world.

EXPERIENCING VESPERS AT HOME: While it is hard to duplicate the Vespers experience at home, there are ways to share this same message and story with your family. Every Christmas, our family does a modified Vespers service; it is so special! Whether you do this now or save this until the holidays, we hope you enjoy this as a family (or even with some friends!).

Go outside at night (preferably when it is dark) or turn your lights down in a room in your house. Stand in a circle, and give each family member a personal candle. Have one person light his or her candle and then read one of the verses below. Then, pass the candlelight to the next person and have that person read the next verse, and so on. At the very end, our family then shares with each other different ways we see light (or joy, or happiness) in each person's life - it is a very uplifting and unifying activity.

VERSES

Hundreds of years before Christ's birth, God gave the following words to Isaiah, the prophet, foretelling the birth of Jesus …
"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness … For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."
– Isaiah 9:2, 6

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. In him was life and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it."
– John 1:1-5

"Lord, you light my lamp; my God illuminates my darkness." – Psalm 18:28

"The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad. The command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up." – Psalm 19:8

"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – whom should I dread?" – Psalm 27:1

"Lord your faithful love reaches to heaven, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your judgments like the deepest sea. Lord you preserve people and animals. How priceless your faithful love is, God? People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They are filled from the abundance of your house. You let them drink from your refreshing stream. For the wellspring of life is with you. By means of your light we see light." – Psalm 36:5-9

"Happy are the people who know the joyful shout; Lord, they walk in the light from your face." – Psalm 89:15

VERSES

"You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:14-16

"For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ." – 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." – Psalm 119:105

"Jesus answered, 'The light will be with you only a little longer. Walk while you have the light so that darkness doesn't overtake you. The one who walks in darkness doesn't know where he's going.'" – John 12:35-36

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." – James 1:17

"If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." – 1 John 1:7

"Everything exposed by the light is made visible, for what makes everything visible is light. Therefore it is said: Get up sleeper, and rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." – Ephesians 5:13-14

"Do everything without grumbling and arguing, so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, by holding firm to the word of life." – Philippians 2:14-16a

"In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.' Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors." – Luke 2:8-14

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him.' … After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was – the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." – Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

"Jesus spoke to them again: 'I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.'" – John 8:12