

Faith & Play™



Quaker Stories for Friends
Trained in the Godly Play® Method

SECOND EDITION

This is a new story released in September 2026
by the trustees of Faith & Play Stories after years of
writing, testing, revision, and collaboration with each other
and the Friends who were the originating authors.

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The Light We Share

A story about finding the light within and all around



Storyteller's perspective; materials facing toward listeners.

Materials:

- Wooden box (simple cardboard box with lid also works)
- Gray underlay circle (24" diameter)
- Candle and snuffer
- Felt flame (see template on page 7 or page 16 in *Faith & Play: Quaker Stories for Friends Trained in the Godly Play® Method: Second Edition*)
- Flat people figures (suggested: from Godly Play or "Lauri Kids See-the-Difference Puzzle")
- Two images from Godly Play story "Creation" (see [Godly Play Resources](#) for download of these images)
- Cards/plaques about 3-4" square depicting:
 - o Birthday cake w/ lit candles
 - o Fireworks
 - o Lit *diya* lamp (Diwali)
 - o Lit *menorah* (Hanukkah)
 - o Shining star (Christmas)¹
 - o Lit *kinara* (Kwanzaa)
 - o *Fanous* lantern (Ramadan)

These images can be copied and glued on wood or card stock, or painted using the templates on pages 5-6. Images can be enlarged or reduced as needed.

¹ Note: the story materials above show a Christmas tree with a star on top; this image has been replaced by the "shining star"

<i>Words</i>	<i>Movements</i>
This story comes in a box. A box can hold a present, or a gift. A box can also hold a mystery inside. This box is full of the light that is in the story.	<i>Take out plain, wooden box the story materials are in. Open it and prop the lid in front, as you would with a parable box.</i>
	<i>Spread the underlay in silence.</i>
Here is one kind of light. A wise person once said that every time a child is born, more light comes into the world. ¹	<i>Light candle.</i>
Let's take a moment to enjoy this light.	<i>Place candle closest to you at top of underlay. Pause.</i>
In the beginning, before anything else, there was the deep and dazzling darkness. And then there was light, too. We need both gifts of creation — the darkness to rest in and the light to grow in.	<i>Place the Creation card with the darkness and light on the underlay to the right, slightly above the candle. Lay your hand like a blessing on first the darkness, then the light.</i>
Here is the light that shines on us during the day: the sun. Here are the moon and stars, that reflect and shine light at night.	<i>Place the Creation card with the sun/ moon stars on the underlay to the left, slightly above the candle.</i>
These lights give us a way to count our days. Every day includes both the day and night, and also the times where they meet in between: dawn and dusk.	<i>Point to the day and night sides, and trace your finger down the time "in between."</i>
A birthday is another way we count time, in years. For each year of our life, we might light a candle to celebrate.	<i>Place the birthday cake card on the underlay to your left, on the other side of the flame and under the image for days/nights.</i>
Fireworks are another kind of light we use to celebrate. Like at the start of a new year. They light up the night sky.	<i>Place the fireworks card on the underlay to your right, across from the birthday cake card and under the dark/light card from Creation.</i>
	<i>Pause before continuing.</i>

All over the world and in many faiths light is important in celebrations and traditions.	
Hindu people celebrate Diwali , which is a festival of lights. It celebrates hope. Millions of lamps called <i>diya</i> are lit to shine on housetops, outside doors and windows, and around Hindu temples in communities around the world.	<i>Place the Diwali card below the fireworks card on the underlay to your right.</i> <i>(You will continue placing images from your R-L, completing a half circle of images around the bottom edge of the underlay.)</i>
Another festival of light is Hanukkah , a time when Jewish communities remember a miracle long ago in the temple in Jerusalem. The lamp oil should only have been enough for one night, but it lasted for eight. Today, Jewish people light the menorah for eight nights to remember this wonder and the victory of their religious freedom.	<i>Place the Hanukkah card next, along the front of the underlay.</i> <i>When you say “one night” point to the center candle, when you say “eight nights” point to each of the other candles like you’re counting them.</i>
Christmas is a celebration full of light. Some people put a star at the top of their Christmas tree. Christians believe a star guided the Magi, or wise men, to find a baby who would change everything. And some people call the man who that baby grew to be “a Light for the World.”	<i>Place the shining star card next to the Hanukkah card, along the front edge.</i>
Kwanzaa is celebrated by people of African descent who light the candles on the kinara to honor their heritage, remember traditions, and celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Unity, Self- Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.	<i>Place the kinara card next to the shining star card along the front edge, moving to your left.</i>
Ramadan is a special time of prayer and reflection for people who are Muslim. Lanterns called <i>fanous</i> are lit as a symbol of hope. The time for Ramadan moves on the calendar each year.	<i>Place the fanous lantern card next to the kinara card, completing the circle of cards/images.</i> <i>As you say “calendar” you might point to the sun/moon/stars card.</i>

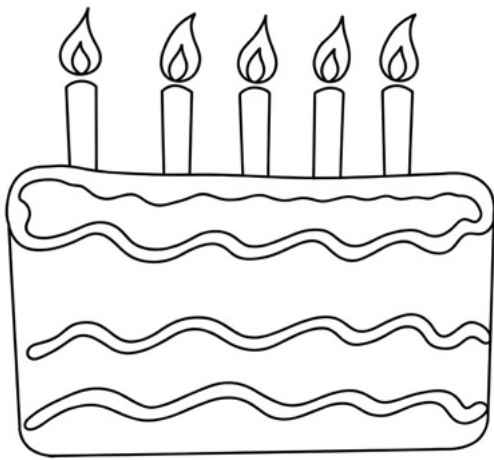
Each of these special times includes light. People remember their traditions, and celebrate hope, miracles, and wonder.	<i>Pause before continuing.</i>
Friends also believe that there is Light within each person.	<i>Hold the felt flame in your hands, then place in center of underlay.</i>
The Light is in everyone. Even people who it's hard to love or to be friends with.	<i>Add wooden people around the center flame. Point to each of the people's chest, touching them gently.</i>
We hold people in the Light who we love, or who is a friend, or someone in need. This might mean we think good thoughts for them, we say a prayer for them, or we imagine them surrounded by Light and Love.	<i>Cup hands around people and the center flame.</i>
Let's pause and take a moment to hold someone in the Light.	
There is light here.	<i>Indicate candle.</i>
There is also light in all these places and times. Light is not just in one place, but can be in every place.	<i>Hold hands around the whole story.</i>
And the Light within each of you goes everywhere that you go.	<i>Hold hands wider to indicate including group in the circle.</i>
	<i>Pause before beginning the wondering.</i>
I wonder what part of the story you like best. I wonder what felt most important to you in this story today. I wonder where you are in the story, or what part is about you. I wonder what other images of Light you have.	<i>[You might end by handing out tea lights to children to take back to the classroom or to take home.]</i>

Notes for storytellers:

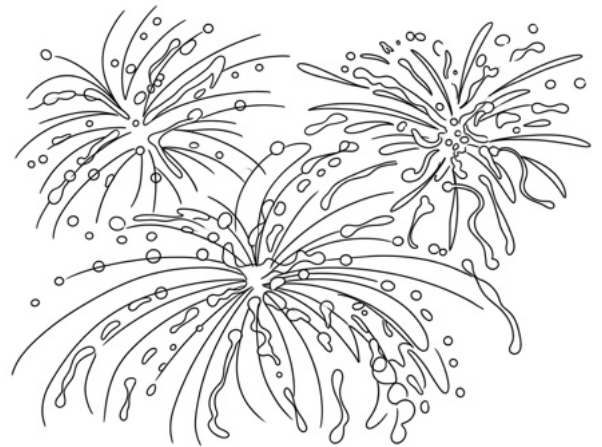
Acknowledgements

Language about the light in the gifts of Creation is adapted from “Creation” in *The Complete Guide to Godly Play, Volume 1* by Jerome Berryman.

Templates for images:



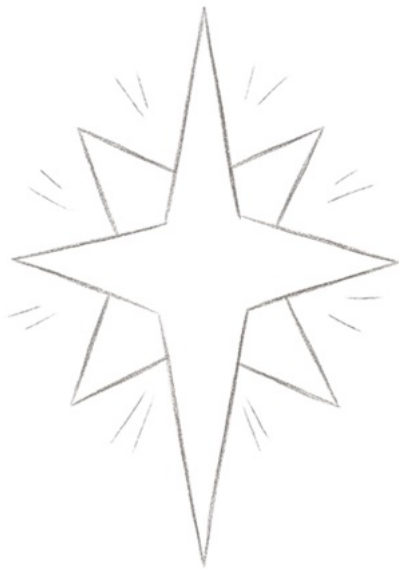
Birthday cake



Fireworks



Diya lamp



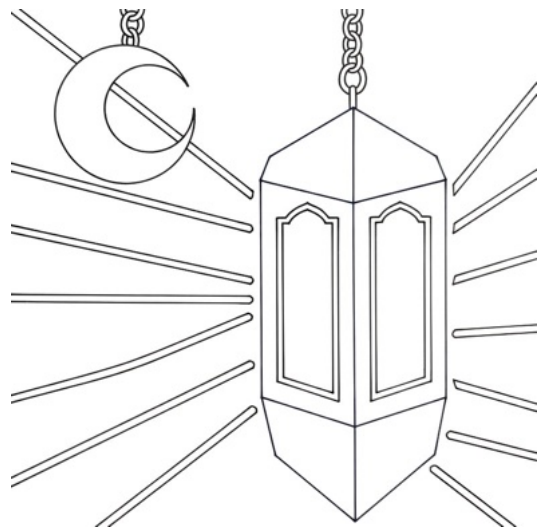
Shining star



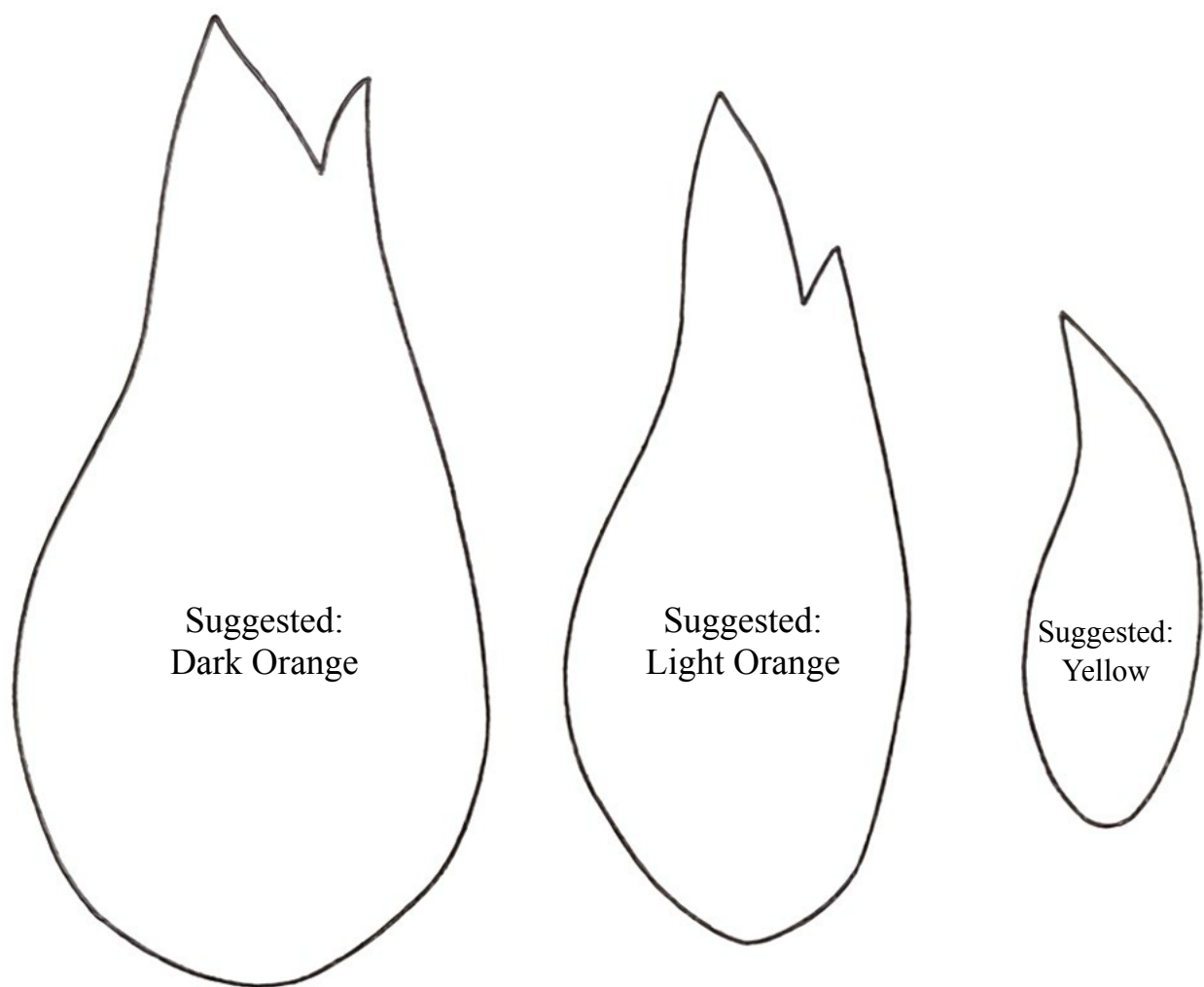
Menorah



Kinara



Fanous lantern



Flame / “The Light” Template