

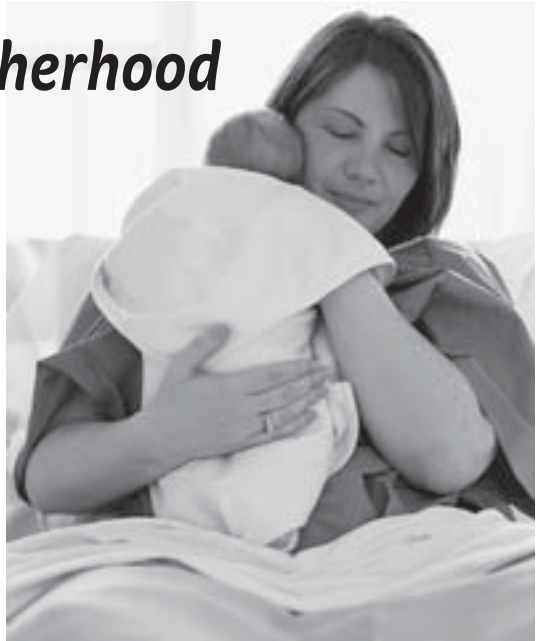
Lamps of Motherhood

Josephine Oxford, Springdale, Newfoundland

Program can be used for Mother's Day or Mother and Daughter Program

Preparation

Display lamps to represent Infancy, Toddler, Teenager, College Student, Newlywed — Living Room Lamp, Grandmother's Lamp and Oil Lamp. Begin program with lights off, have lamps ready for lighting during the program. Have a small candle for each lady to light at the end of the program.



Introduction

A light can make a frightening room into a place of warmth and security. A light can transform fear of the unknown and unseen into the welcoming glow of familiarity. A light can create cozy warmth and cheerful rays from dark and mysterious shadows. A light can cause dark and deserted streets to become brilliant displays of night life. A light can change the cold, unfriendly night into a warm and friendly companion. It's the light that makes the difference.

A mother can make a house a home. A mother can make a sad face smile. She can make a rainy day sunny and a lonely heart feel needed and wanted. She can make the insecure feel confident. It is the mother that makes the difference.

Song: SASB 841/TB 698, *Jesus Bids Us Shine*.

Prayer

Devotional

The Lamps of Motherhood — they're varied, they're unique and they fulfill different needs. But they all have one thing in common. Their purpose is to give light.

Jesus commanded in Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men (before your family) that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The lamp of motherhood is lit by the divine hand the day you bring that tiny life into the world. The lamp doesn't go out until that same divine hand chooses to remove the earthly light to a place of eternal light. No matter what size or representation of lamp you are, or what small corner God has given you to light, to Him you are one of His very special lamps. You are a lamp of Motherhood.

Nursery Lamp

Your baby arrives and suddenly you find

yourself in the thrilling, perplexing, frustrating and exhausting new role of motherhood. You are now the lamp of a caretaker. Often your lamp burns around the clock, there are long hours and sleepless nights of feedings and caring for your child.

Your days are scheduled, so busy that sometimes the breeze of busyness almost blows your lamp out. In these times it's important to keep focused as your little one becomes aware of their environment and surroundings.

Psychologists tell us that by three years of age, a child has developed 90% of their personality, their disposition and attitudes. God instructs us "train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22: 6

How has your lamp of caretaking been shining?



Song: SASB 843/TB 304, *Jesus Loves Me This I Know*

Toddler Lamp

The lamp of Caretaker never goes out, but as the years go by, a new lamp is added. Baby

paraphernalia is replaced with books, games, coloring books, dolls and doll houses. You begin to hear, "Mommy, let's play a game" or "colour this page with me" or "let's go play outside".

Your baby has grown and the light of companion-ship is lit. The toddler stage provides a whole new world to explore. There are new skills to encourage and untapped abilities to develop. There are new wonders of nature to examine, new games to play, and new lessons to learn.

God lit the lamp of Companionship because some little life needs more than tasty food, nice clothes, a clean playroom and more than the new toys you purchase. This life needs someone to listen, to notice, to talk with. Your child needs you.

Has your lamp of companionship been glowing brightly?

Soon that tiny bundle you brought into the world has blossomed into a lovely young person. You watch the development with mixed emotions as you realize how fast childhood's carefree years have passed. The young shoulders are beginning to bear the weight of life's responsibilities, tensions and perplexities. As a mother you find yourself in a new role — rearing a teenager.

Teenage Lamp

The lamp of Consultant brings new challenges to motherhood.

In this stage you recognize that your wisdom and insights are far too limited to cope with the fast-moving world in which your teen lives. There are times when you wonder if your dim light will withstand the storms that come with adolescent years. Depending on

the divine wisdom of God you will experience strength far beyond your own supply.

Storms will be experienced, but take the time to experience the sunshine of happiness and understanding between you and your teen. Your lamp of consultant will shine effectively if you allow the strong rays of consistency, humility, loving words and actions, openness, honesty, understanding, trust and most of all, prayer. Nothing can put out this lamp faster than inconsistency, distrust, hasty condemnations and accusations, and just plain disinterest.

How has your lamp of consultant been shining before your teens? Have they seen your sincerity and understanding?

College Student Lamp (Desk Lamp)

The light of Stability. The trunks are packed. The little room that was once a nursery, which has been your child's during all the years since then, is strangely empty. There's a strange emptiness in your heart as you realize he is really leaving the security and protection of home. College will open his eyes to a world that can be impersonal and unconcerned.

The pressure to conform to an un-Christ like world is great. The intellectual, anti-God theories of man will seek to win his mind. Honest doubts will come. Man's logic will sound convincing. He will evaluate people and things. He will note inconsistencies within and injustices without. He will wonder and question. Through all of the instabilities of college life you, mom, will be his lamp of stability.



Throughout the past eighteen years, you have laid a foundation. Now as he builds his own life, you will be his stability and strength with your consistent prayers, unconditional love and concern, your e-mails and phone calls of encouragement. Above all, your lamp of stability will say I'm with you all the way.

Newlywed Lamp

The light of Example. A new home has begun. The little girl, who for so long was yours, now belongs to another. You shed tears as you see the radiant bride walk down the aisle on the arm of her husband. As the days go by, you watch with satisfaction as you see emerging domestic skills you never dreamed were there. How can that little girl, who couldn't even dust the furniture without leaving behind streaks of dust, ever keep such an immaculate house? How can that amateur cook who always managed to ruin a batch of cookies by reading the recipe wrong, ever produce such tasty meals?

She learned, and is learning by your lamp of example. As the new homemaker arranges her

home, she will almost unconsciously follow your example. She will find herself doing what mom always did. You are her lamp of example. It's an important lamp. It's a lamp that will shine into a home for years to come. Do you like what you see in your daughter's home? Many times it's a reflection of your own home. So carefully and prayerfully keep the lamps of example burning, and the beauty of your home will be seen in the home of your daughter.



Chorus: *Let's All Get Together In
Communion Sweet*

Grandmother Lamp (Oil Lamp)

The Lamp of (guidance) Sharer. The house has been silent during the past few years. But now, once again you hear the happy sounds of children's voices and little feet. Once again you visit the children's department in stores, and watch for special bargains in children's toys.

A new lamp glows from your window. From the moment of that first phone call when you hear, 'Congratulations, you are a Grandmother' you become a sharer in the joys of another

life. You share in the miraculous wonder of birth, the first days when all is strange and perplexing to the new mother. You share with pride the growth, development and the new achievements. You share your life and your love with those who hold such a special place in your heart. You eagerly share your time and money, for everyone knows that grandmothers always have special surprises and treats.

But more than all this, you share yourself.

Your days of responsibility for the physical care and guidance of little ones are over, but in a new way, you care and you guide as you share and give of yourself. Grandmothers give a special kind of love that no one else can give, special times that no one else can share.

The challenge is to give your grandchildren love that is far greater than a human love — the love of Christ. Share with your grandchildren the meaningful things in life. The truth of God's Word and the reality of His working in their lives. Show them the divine character of Christ shining through your life.

There's a dark world waiting outside — waiting for the light of Christ. As we think of where God has placed us to be His light, let us light a candle to symbolize our desire to be a light in a dark world. By lighting your candle, you are saying, yes I'll shine for Jesus in my home, in my work place, or wherever I am.

Closing Chorus: *Shine Jesus Shine,
Fill This Land With The Father's Glory*

Closing Prayer