



# Inspire

## Hope for the World

### Hopeful Candle Christmas Crafts

Brighten your home and your holidays with these simple candle crafts. Share them as gifts of hope to someone who needs a little encouragement this Christmas season.



Ruffles and Rain Boots

### Easy Dollar Store Candle Holders

<https://rufflesandrainboots.com/easy-diy-dollar-store-candle-holder-upcycle-craft/>

### Mason Jar Christmas Candle

<https://ottawamommyclub.ca/super-easy-diy-mason-jar-christmas-candle/>



### Peppermint Candles

<https://apumpkinandaprincess.com/diy-peppermint-mason-jar-candles/>

Not only will the light serve as a symbol of hope, peppermint is considered a hopeful smell.



### INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

**Boise, ID** wanted to make a more significant effort to incorporate the ladies from the Booth program, and a way to show care was in making them baskets to help them while in the Booth program and after completing the program.

**Hemet, CA** is using the Bible Project for their Bible studies. They watch a brief video and then read the Bible passage. ([bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com))

The Officers in the Central Valley — **Los Banos, Merced, Modesto & Turlock, CA**— joined together and did an area-wide Women's Ministries retreat since they couldn't have a divisional retreat. The theme was "Masterpiece," using pre-prepared materials by CTA Inc. Day 1 & 2 were online via Zoom, with each group meeting at their own corps. On day 3 all the corps joined together at one location and met in person. It included music, games, grab-bag and basket auctions to benefit the Territorial WM Project, lunch and a devotional. With each CO contributing to the various elements, it was a fantastic way to lighten the load.

**Pasadena, CA** decided to hold Home League at the Silvercrest, where women and men are able to participate in the meeting.

**Rancho Cordova, CA** have been working on making shawls for people in their community.

**San Gabriel, CA** have added a 30-minute English lesson into their weekly Wednesday Fellowship Group.

The women in **Wrangell, AK** surprised the Corps Officer with a baby shower after she returned from having her baby.

Commissioner Colleen Riley—Territorial President of Women's Ministries

Colonel Donna Igleheart—Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

Major Beth Desplancke—Territorial Women's Ministries Program Secretary

Be sure to check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

## The Hopeful Light of Christmas

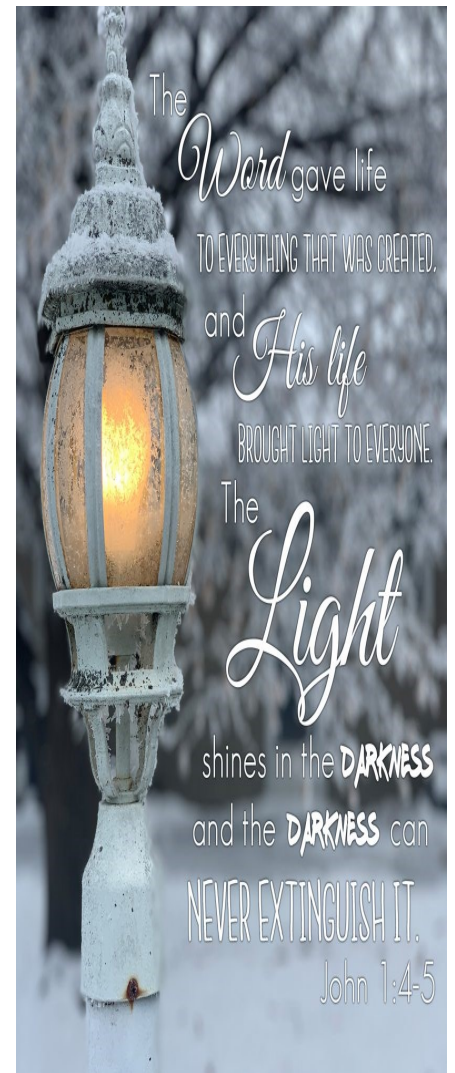
My favorite thing about Christmas is the Christmas lights. There is something about the beauty and the warmth these lights provide, especially on a cold, dark winter night. In the evenings after all my family has gone to bed, I love to just sit in front of the Christmas tree and admire the lights.

Just like Christmas lights brighten dark, cold, winter night skies, the birth of Jesus came as a great light. Isaiah prophesied about Christ's coming when he wrote about the dawning of a great light. Isaiah prophesied about Christ's coming and he wrote about the dawning of a great light. Isaiah 9:2 says, ***The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.*** The darkness is the sin-filled world and it represents no hope and no joy. But with the coming of Christ the Savior of the world, the world was filled with the light of His love. He brought light into the darkness.

On a dark night while the shepherds were watching their sheep, like they did every night, their routine was interrupted. A bright light disturbed their peace! Before them stood an angel of the Lord (Luke 2:9). The darkness is gone; the light is overwhelming. The shepherds are startled, rubbing their eyes and squinting from the brightness. Through the light the shepherds hear these words: ***"The Savior—yes the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloths, lying in a manger."*** (Luke 2:11-12).

Just as their eyes are adapting to the light, it gets brighter. Not just one angel is there, but a vast number of angels who were praising God and saying, ***"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*** (Luke 2:14)

Why the significance of light in the Christmas story? John tells us that ***"The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it"*** (John 1:4-5). Just as Christmas lights brighten a dark and wintery night, Christ's light brightens a dark, sin-filled world.



### Monthly Bible Trivia Question—The Light of Christmas

1. When Zechariah was in the temple of the Lord serving as priest, where did the angel of the Lord appear (Luke 1:11)?
2. What message did the angel have for Zechariah (Luke 1:13-17)?
3. The same angel who appeared to Zechariah appeared to Mary with a similar announcement. What was the angel's announcement to Mary (Luke 1:31-33)?
4. What was Mary's response to the angel's announcement (Luke 1:38)?
5. When an angel appeared to the shepherds who were in the field watching their sheep, what shone around the angel (Luke 2:9)?
6. How many angels did the shepherds see that night (Luke 2:13)?
7. The wise men (or Magi) travelled from the East by following a star. Who were they looking for and why did they come (Matthew 2:1-2)?
8. After visiting Herod where did the star lead them (Matthew 2:9-11)?
9. In John's Gospel, he calls Jesus the Word, who was with God in the beginning and is God. He created all the world and He was life and this life was what (John 1:4)?
10. There was a man sent from God whose name was John [the Baptist]. What was his job in regards to the light (John 1:7-8)?