

Charity No 251394

February 2020

A Light to lighten the darkness.



The words above were spoken by an old man called Simeon when he saw the baby Jesus with his parents in the Temple in Jerusalem. God showed him that Jesus was the special one, sent to show the world God's special light. February 2nd, Candlemas Day, is when we remember that day at the temple. It became a special day for the blessing of candles in the church (when candles were the only source of light), and is still remembered today.



Centuries later in this country, lace makers worked together in one room during the dark winter days, to economise in the use of candles which were expensive. There was a regulation that on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent, (also now known as Pancake Day and usually still dark quite early), their candles were blown out, not to be lit again until 3rd September.



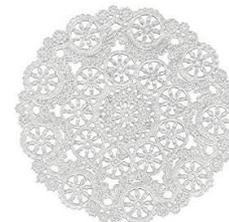
Make a pretty lacy cuff

Cut a piece of white card to fit around your wrist. Carefully cut out the centre section, leaving a narrow border all round.

Now take a white paper doilie (you can buy them where you get cake making ingredients) and cut it in half. Lay one half on top of the piece of card with the frilly outer edge above one edge of the card.

Carefully stick it onto the card (put the glue on the card rather than on the doilie) and lay the doilie on top. You should have a lower edge sticking out so carefully fold that under until the edge is overlapping the underside of the card. Now glue that in place, again applying the glue to the card.

Then join the two ends together to make the band.



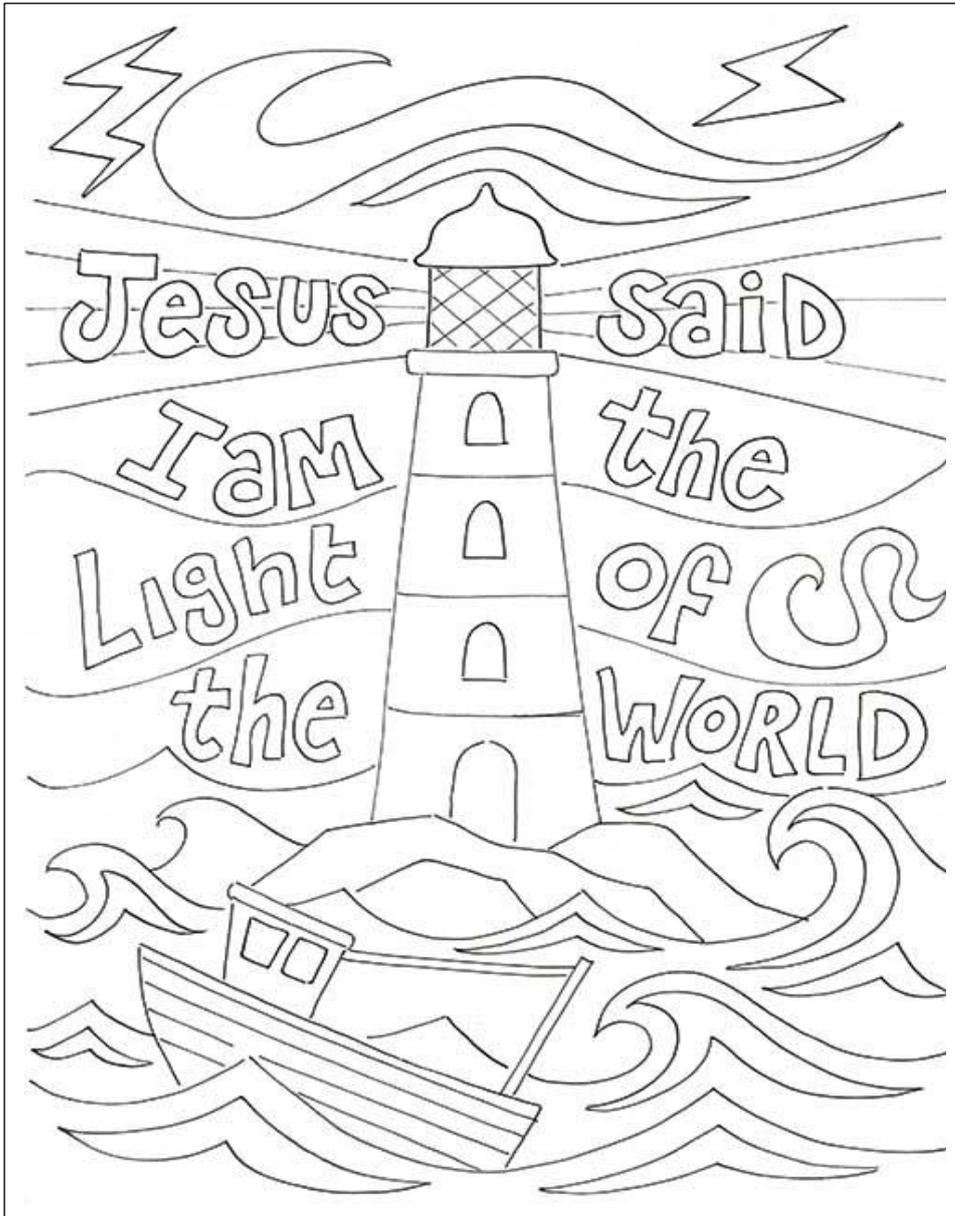
Causing a stir with hammer and nails. Someone ready to stand up for what he believed.

In 1483 a man called Martin Luther nailed a piece of paper to the door of a church because he felt the priests were not acting properly. One day he marched out with a hammer and nails and a paper with a list of 95 things he felt were wrong in the Church. Some people agreed with Martin but others were very angry and he had to escape. Sadly, a war broke out between his supporters who became known as Protestants, and the Pope, the leader of the Catholic church.

The church changed some of its ways eventually but by then the split was too great. The key date for remembering Martin Luther is 18th February.



Martin Luther wanted the true word of God to shine out to the people. Another Christian who gave her life to bringing Christ's light to others is Gladys Aylward, sometimes known as "The Small Woman". Find out more about her on the internet. She is remembered in the church calender on February 24th.



Colour in this picture to remind you of how Jesus promises to be there to show us the way, like a light shining in the darkness.

Jesus said these words to his followers:

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Can you find the underlined words on the candle in the picture?

