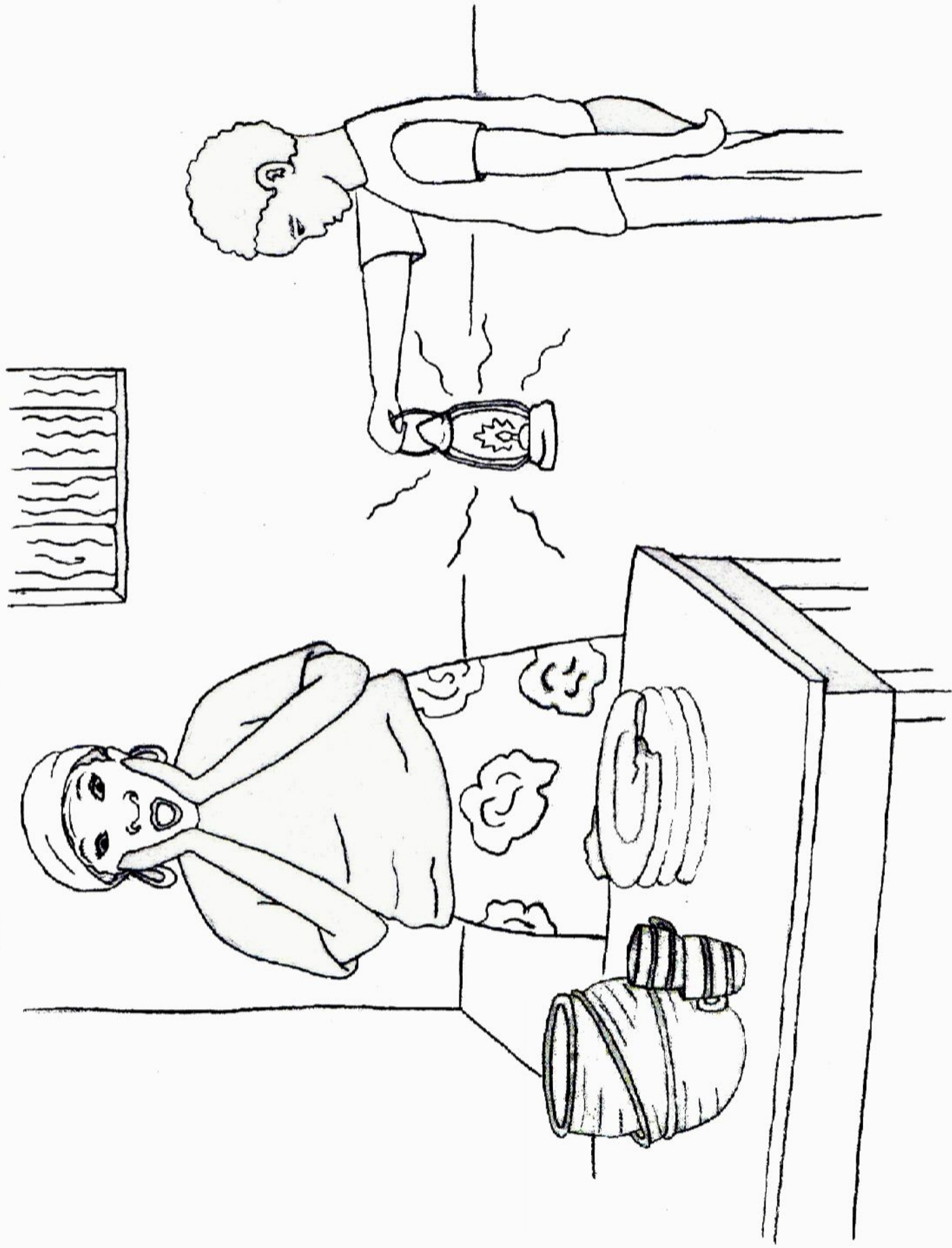


Lighting the Lamp



Lighting the Lamp

There was once a little boy named Charles who lived in a nearby town. He was a very playful little boy and often got himself into trouble because he had so much energy. One day his mother asked him to wash the dishes and then put them inside next to the fireplace. She told him, "Be careful as you are washing them so that you don't break any of them. Be especially careful with the fancy glass plates."

But little Charles didn't pay much attention to her words. He was in a hurry to get his chores done so that he could go out and play. So he washed the dishes as quickly as he could. This went well, until he got to the last glass plate. But as he tossed the last glass plate quickly into a basin with the other dishes he'd washed, he heard a loud noise. When he looked down, he saw that the plate had broken in two.

Little Charles knew that this was one of his mother's favorite plates. He knew that if she saw this he was going to get a sore bottom. So he devised a plan. He was going to put the broken plate with the other plates inside the dark house. Then no one would know that it was broken and he would not get into trouble. So he did this, and then went off to play.

That evening little Charles was in his family's house with his father, and they were watching his mother as she made prepared the foo-foo by the fireplace. As the foo-foo was getting close to done, she called out to her son, "Charles, light a lamp for me so that I can see better as I make the balls of foo-foo. So Charles got some matches and lit the lamp that was in his parents bedroom and brought it out into the kitchen where his mom was preparing food. But he did not put it on the shelf near the fireplace as he normally would because that was where the plates were, and he remembered what he had done earlier that day. So instead he put it on the ground near his mother.

She said to him, "You silly child! I don't want it on the ground. I want it up on the shelf so that I can see well." Reluctantly, he put it up on the shelf. As he did so, it gave light to the whole room. Suddenly, he heard his father's voice from behind him, speaking to his mother. "When did we crack one of our special glass plates?" "What?" his mother replied. "What plate is cracked?" Charles' father pointed to the crack on the plate that was shining in the lamp light. The mother looked at Charles and said nothing. He knew that he was going to have a very sore bottom that night, and he was right. The lamp had made everything visible.

Luke 8:16-17 "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

This story has been taken from the book "Jesus' Stories for Us in Africa" by Samuel Weber, illustrated by Kelsey Weber



Application Questions

1) If God's light were to shine on every part of your life right now, would there be parts that you would be ashamed to have everyone see?

2) What are you going to do about those parts of your life?

3) What is the city on a hill referring to?

4) How can we be like a light that shines in this world?

5) Should we keep God's Word to ourselves?

6) Should we keep God's Word hidden within the church?