

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER POST WEEKEND RESOURCE

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

(For this presentation you will need one large candle and as many individual candles as there are people present. Before beginning the presentation organize everyone into a circle. Put the large candle in the middle of the circle and light it. This presentation works best if the room can be made dark.)

HUSBAND:

I'd like to direct your attention to the candle placed in the center of our circle. It spreads its light evenly among us not lighting any one individual more than the other. (Wife's name) and I like to think of the candle as representing God's love. God also shines His light among us indiscriminately without preference. He loves us all equally. Knowing this makes me feel content, serene, and thankful, like I do on a pleasant summer picnic with family and friends. Thinking of God shining His love on me makes me feel (joyful) -- how fortunate I am to have such a loving God.

WIFE:

The candle can also be used to guide our way in the darkness. So can God's love. It can help us through times of trouble, sorrow, loneliness, or despair. Knowing I can turn to God in these times makes me feel secure, like a child who can find safety in his mother's arms. I feel reassured and confident.

If we hold our hands over the flame from the candle they are warmed. Likewise, if we open our hearts to God's love we are warmed. We can experience the calmness of mind and the exhilaration of spirit which God's love brings.

HUSBAND:

Let's close our eyes momentarily. When our eyes are closed the light from the candle doesn't do our vision any good. We cannot see. But because we cannot see the light does not mean that it is gone, that it has vanished. It is still there, waiting for us, ready to light our lives. We can close our hearts and minds to God's love, but, like the light from this candle, it is still there, waiting. Knowing this makes me feel (reassured and safe).

The candle has another dimension. Its light can be spread. It can be shared.

(Candle lighting ceremony. Light is passed from candle to candle until all are lit.)

WIFE:

Theoretically it would be possible for each of us to go outside this room and light more candles, which could be used to light even more candles until every couple (or individual) in the world has a lighted candle. The light from this one candle has the power to light the world!

In a much greater way, God's love has this same power. But it must be spread the same way the light from this candle was shared -- through the efforts of people like you and me. God uses people to share His love. He gives us the responsibility and the privilege to do so. How much faith and trust He has in us. If other couples are to experience God's Plan for their marriages it is up to believers like us to light their candles of faith and love.

HUSBAND:

Notice that the light from the candle in the center of the room did not diminish even though it was used to light so many other candles. God's love does not grow smaller because people share it. It is an everlasting source of love which calls us to minister and to share.

Remember, it only takes a spark to get a fire going.

WIFE AND HUSBAND:

Lead optional song "Pass It On".

Dialogue question: How does knowing God is relying on me to spread His love to others make me feel?

Sharing question: Think of a time when God's love reached you through the loving actions of a friend, coworker, relative, or perhaps a stranger. Briefly describe the incident and share how you felt throughout this experience.