

GRADES  
K-6

# UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

## The Flame

Printable Lesson Kit



**M** **GHTY MESSAGES**

# THANK YOU

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# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

## The Flame

### LESSON OVERVIEW

#### THE FLAME MIGHTY MESSAGES

This lesson on the origins of the candle or flame symbol shows how these symbols have become endearing to Christians over the centuries. Students will learn to think of prayers going up when they see a candle flame, and to see it as a sign of a loving, listening God.

#### How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This lesson contains many activities to help children in K-6 grade understand the subject. Feel free to fix and match activities to those that you feel will be age appropriate to your kids!



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



#### MATERIALS LIST:

- An image of the candle or flame symbol, printed out or on your phone (lesson)
- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- White paper/cardstock
- Pencils or pens
- NIV Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

## The Flame

### SCRIPTURE & LESSON

#### PASSAGE (NIV): VARIOUS PASSAGES ABOUT THE SYMBOL

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



#### Revelation 8:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. <sup>4</sup> The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.

#### Revelation 5:8

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

#### Psalms 141:2

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

#### Psalms 18:28

You, LORD, keep my lamp burning;  
my God turns my darkness into light.

## Questions for Children

- 1. In the first two passages from Revelation, prayers of God's people are compared to smoke or incense. In fact, the second one states that prayers turn into something physical in heaven. Energy of prayer becomes mass in heaven! Prayers become smoking incense. How would it change your prayers if you pictured them as being something like smoke and incense when they come before God? Take answers.**
- 2. Incense is often lit with a flame or kept lit by burning embers. The writer of Psalm 141 presents his prayer as being like incense. The verse was written at least a thousand years before the passages in the Revelation. What does this tell you about the practice of associating prayer with candles? *It is very old in the Judeo-Christian faith. If prayers have energy, how should you pray? Like your prayers are real and meaningful to God. Try to feel them as you want God to feel them.***
- 3. A flame sometimes symbolizes an actual connection between us and God. Why do you think many adults around the world feel inclined to light candles when they pray? *It makes them feel closer to God; it gives them a sense of assurance that he will hear and respond; it is a universal way of saying that you really want God's attention to a matter.***



## TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Throughout your message, keep visible a copy of your coloring sheet, containing the symbol, which you can point to.

**Children are often forbidden to use candles when praying due to the threat of fire. However, many adults are drawn to the idea of lighting candles when they pray.**

**In some churches, especially Catholic ones, there is a special place to light candles for a person or issue that is really on your heart. You light a candle, then say your prayer.**

**In many churches, candles are lit during Christmas Eve "candlelight services." They signify Jesus being the light of the world while coming in such a humble way. A flame is a humble fire; it's not the type where you need to call the fire department or that gets out of control.**

**For centuries, people have lit candles to celebrate the light of Christ as well as the power of prayer. The flame symbolizes light in the darkness, which is what the Bible says that Jesus is.**

**Nearly ALL religions rely on flame or candlelight or incense to increase a spiritual feeling. In the Jewish faith, a famous use of candlelight is with the menorah, which holds eight candles, to celebrate Hanukkah. A clay lamp, or a diya, is a traditional a part of every Hindu ritual. In Buddhism, candles are placed in front of Buddhist shrines or statues, which symbolize his teachings.**

**It could therefore be said that God puts the idea of candles in worship in everyone's hearts. If prayers turn to candle-like structures in heaven, it's no wonder they seem so useful down here.**



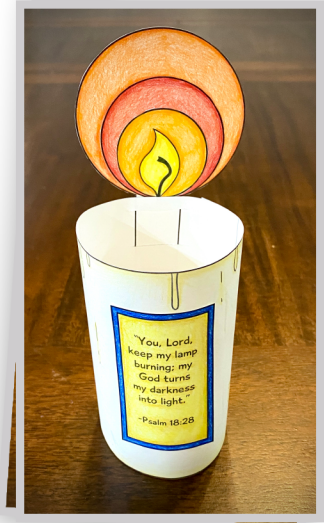


### MATERIALS:

- Paper Candle Printable Craft (one page)
- White Paper or Cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue

### PREPARATION:

- Print one copy of Paper Candle Craft for each student



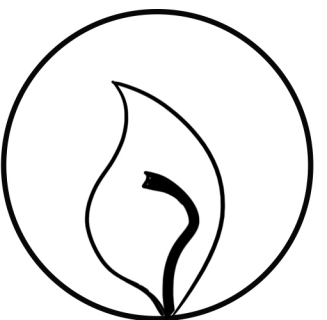
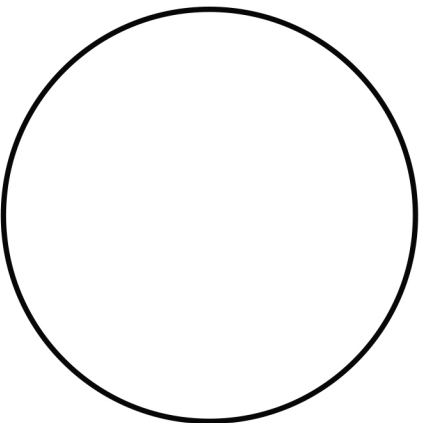
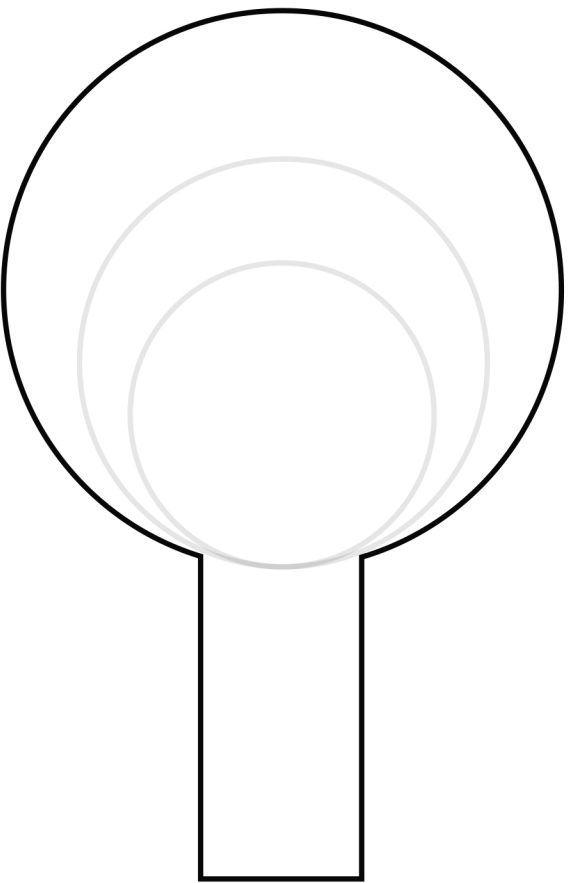
### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Color images as desired
2. Carefully cut out shapes, including slits in the large rectangle
3. Starting with circle flame shapes, glue circles on top of each other stacking from largest to smallest
4. Glue Candle to form cylinder.
5. Insert flame shape through slits in the back
6. Glue scripture to the front of the candle

### Introduction or Conclusion

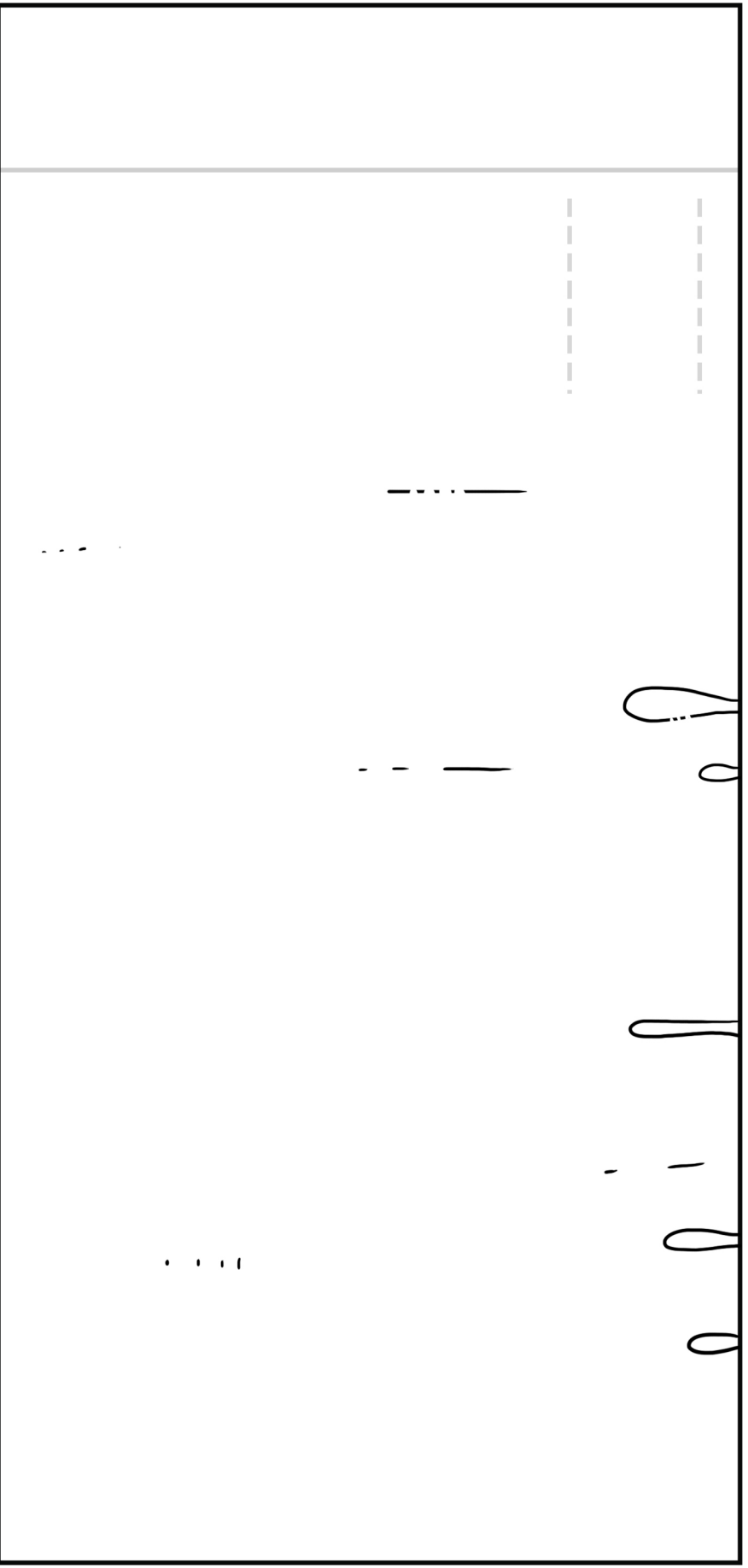
Take your candle home and put it on your nightstand. When you say a prayer, think of the flame being the energy that reaches up to God. Believe your prayer has been heard by our living God!



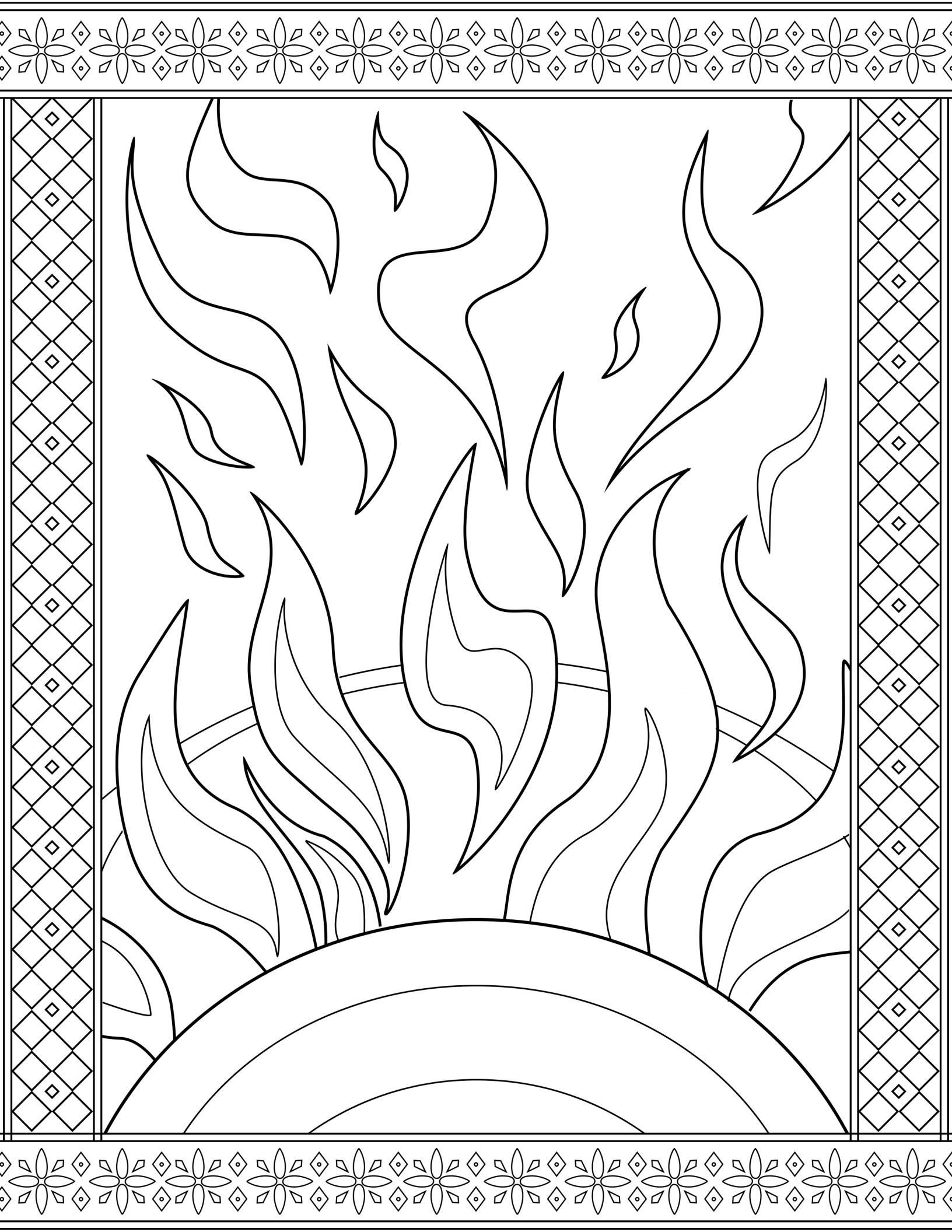


"You, Lord,  
keep my lamp  
burning; my  
God turns  
my darkness  
into light."

-Psalm 18:28









# WORD SEARCH

**Instructions:** Candles have been inspiring great prayers for centuries. Below is a list of things people pray for when they have a small flame or light. Find the prayers in the word search.

C	K	E	X	O	T	H	E	R	S	A	J	A	M	K	E
G	V	Z	G	R	A	D	E	S	H	V	L	V	U	R	U
A	S	S	U	R	A	N	C	E	B	E	T	Q	D	K	S
W	O	O	E	S	C	A	P	E	E	S	A	H	H	G	E
P	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N	Q	L	P	T	R
I	Y	A	C	H	I	E	V	E	M	E	N	T	T	R	V
U	A	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	Z	E	H	I
K	N	O	T	E	W	O	R	T	H	I	N	E	S	S	C
V	N	H	U	T	J	R	W	G	S	G	P	C	F	A	E
D	I	O	E	J	K	N	F	O	U	U	C	Z	I	E	H
B	G	S	W	A	W	Z	I	J	C	I	W	I	N	D	V
O	P	H	I	L	L	P	A	B	C	D	I	N	A	H	C
C	I	N	L	O	E	I	A	B	E	A	S	E	N	N	D
V	Q	X	W	N	N	D	N	C	S	N	D	A	C	Q	C
C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	G	G	S	C	O	W	E	I	L
G	H	N	C	A	T	J	B	E	I	E	M	P	S	Z	Q

**Words to Find:**

**HEALTH  
FINANCES  
SUCCESS  
GRADES**

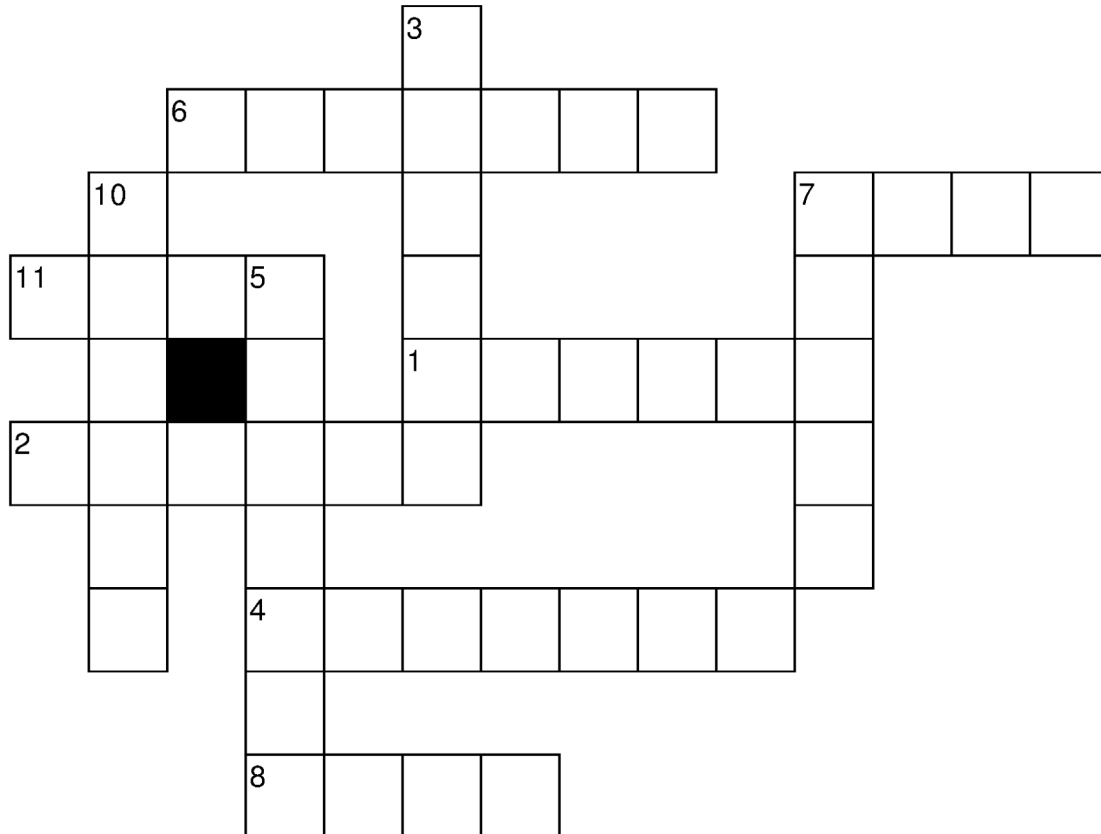
**ACHIEVEMENT  
SERVICE  
CHARITY  
OTHERS**

**NOTEWORTHINESS  
ESCAPE  
GUIDANCE  
PROTECTION  
VISION**

**ASSURANCE  
HEALING  
KNOWLEDGE  
WISDOM  
COMPASSION**

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Instructions:** Use your At-A-Glance Sheet, Famous Scriptures Relating to Candles or Flames, to complete the answers to the crossword puzzle below.



**Across**

- 1. Revelation 5:8 speaks of four of these types of creatures having harps and bowls of incense
- 2. Revelation 5:8 speaks of twenty-four of these types of people having harps and bowls of incense
- 4. May my prayer be set before you like....
- 6. You, Lord, keep my lamp doing this
- 7. The human spirit is the lamp of the....
- 8. The lampstands in 2 Chronicles 13:11 were made of this
- 11. In Exodus 13, at night the pillar appeared to be made out of this

**Down**

- 3. Type of being who had the golden censer in Revelation 8:3-4
- 5. Psalm 141:2 speaks of this type of sacrifice
- 7. God turns our darkness into this
- 10. In Exodus 13, the Lord went out in this shape of a cloud to guide the people



## AT A GLANCE: FAMOUS SCRIPTURES RELATING TO THE CANDLE OR FLAME

Below are scriptures about candles or flames. They symbolize either light from God or our earnest desire to be heard by God. Put an X beside any that are meaningful to you.

### REVELATION 5:8

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

### REVELATION 8:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. <sup>4</sup> The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.

### PSALM 141:2

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

### PSALM 18:28

You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

### 2 CHRONICLES 13:11

Every morning and evening they present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to the LORD. They set out the bread on the ceremonially clean table and light the lamps on the gold lampstand every evening.

### PROVERBS 20:27

The human spirit is the lamp of the LORD  
that sheds light on one's inmost being.

### EXODUS 13:21-22

(About the people who just left Egypt on the Exodus): <sup>21</sup> By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. <sup>22</sup> Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Connect the Dots!



God comes to Moses  
at the burning bush

Write out the following important scripture for this symbol: Psalm 141:2

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# LEARNING LOOKUPS



# CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

*The Flame*

**Lookup:** Psalm 18:28 and write it down.

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**Lookup:** Proverbs 20:27 and write it down.

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**Question:** Think of some things you want to pray about so badly that you wish you could light a candle. Write them below:

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**Create a prayer below.** Speak to God and write it. Ask God to put a flame, or warm enthusiasm, in your heart for doing his will and loving him back. Use your own words:

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**Instructions:** Use your At-A-Glance Sheet to fill in the scripture verses below that have to do with flames and candles used in prayer:

### CANDLES AND FLAMES AS SYMBOLS OF EARNEST PRAYER

**Revelation 5:8** And when he had taken it, the four living \_\_\_\_\_ and the twenty-four elders fell down before the \_\_\_\_\_. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

**Revelation 8:3-4** (Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the \_\_\_\_\_. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.

**Psalms 141:2** May my prayer be set before you like \_\_\_\_\_; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening \_\_\_\_\_.

**Psalms 18:28** You, LORD, keep my \_\_\_\_\_ burning; my God turns my darkness into \_\_\_\_\_.

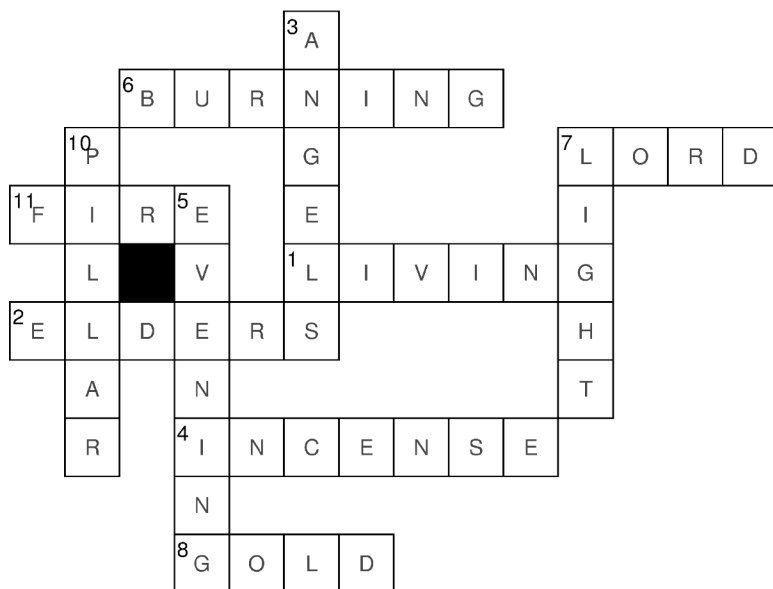
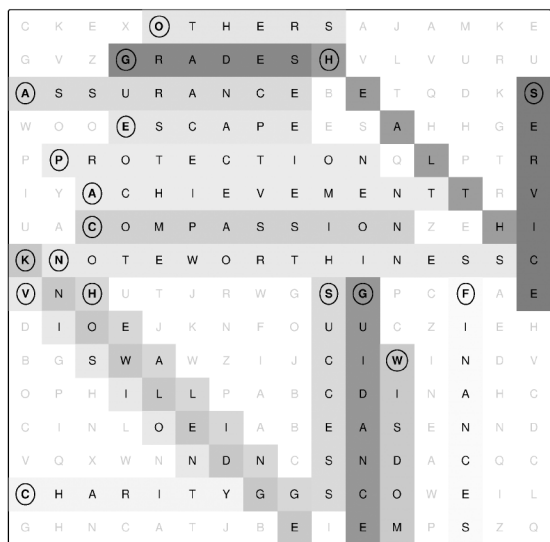
**2 Chronicles 13:11** Every morning and evening they present burnt \_\_\_\_\_ and fragrant incense to the LORD. They set out the \_\_\_\_\_ on the ceremonially clean table and light the lamps on the gold lampstand every evening.

**Proverbs 20:27** The human \_\_\_\_\_ is the lamp of the LORD that sheds light on one's inmost \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exodus 13:21-22** (About the people who just left Egypt on the Exodus): <sup>21</sup> By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of \_\_\_\_\_ to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of \_\_\_\_\_ to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. <sup>22</sup> Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.



# ANSWER KEY



### Teacher's QUIZ ANSWERS in order:

- 1) Creatures
- 2) Lamb
- 3) Altar
- 4) Prayers
- 5) Incense
- 6) Sacrifice
- 7) Lamp
- 8) Light
- 9.) Offerings
- 10) Bread
- 11) Spirit
- 12) Being
- 13) Cloud
- 14) Fire





**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**



**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_