

December 2-8 1-3 John; Jude

"GOD IS LOVE"

- Overcoming the World Story/Picture – Read the story excerpt below from Elder Neil L. Andersen. Talk about how amazing it would be to experience that and how it is possible for us to receive those blessings. Remind them that Heavenly Father and Jesus love us, and that they also want us to receive those blessings.
 - Read/discuss/summarize 1 John 5:4-5. Talk about what it means to overcome the world and how our faith can help us overcome the world.
 - Read/discuss/summarize 1 John 2:24-25.
 - Elder Neil L. Andersen said, “Overcoming the world is not one defining moment in a lifetime, but a lifetime of moments that define an eternity.”
 - Banner Coloring Page: Have each family member draw a picture of themselves on the “These Are They Who Have Overcome the World” banner page. While coloring, talk about specific things we could focus on to help us as we try to overcome the world (for us it’s probably going to be things like being reverent during church, scripture study, prayers, etc.).
 - Read/discuss/summarize John 16:33 and John 3:16-21. Talk about how Jesus overcame the world and is able to help us also overcome the world.
- God is Light/Following Jesus Brings Light to My Life – Read/discuss/summarize 1 John 1:3-7. Elder Robert D. Hales said, “We are engaged in a battle between the forces of light and darkness. If it were not for the Light of Jesus Christ and His gospel, we would be doomed to the destruction of darkness.” The light we can get in our lives through God and Christ will help us overcome the world.
 - Glow Stick Activity: Crystal from www.theredcrystal.org had a super fun idea to use glow sticks for this. She says to put a bunch of unactivated glow sticks in a bag or pillow case that isn't see-through. When a child mentions something that brings more of the "light of Christ" into our lives, pull it out and let them activate the glow stick. Then set it on the table in the dark room, until all the glow sticks are on that same table making a considerable amount of light. Talk about the happiness and hope we can feel in our lives because of Jesus Christ. The printables from here would be great to attach onto the glow sticks while discussing specific things that bring more of the light of Christ into our lives:
<https://www.theredcrystal.org/post/come-follow-me-december-2-8-god-is-love-1-3-john-jude>
 - Could also do this object lesson with flashlights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JggI9OYaaPk>
 - Read D & C 50:24 and talk about ways we can receive light.
- God Loves Us A Lot! Heart Activity – Does God love us a lot or a little? Print up the heart sheet below and read 1 John 4:7-21 out loud. Have the kids color in a heart for each time they hear the word “love” or “loveth” (or you could give them play-dough and let them add another piece to a heart each time they hear the word “love” or just make tally marks to count the total if you don’t want to worry about printing stuff or using extra supplies). Discuss/summarize what these verses are saying.
 - Song: “I Stand All Amazed” music video- Remind them that one way we can feel and know of God’s love for us is through Jesus. 1 John 4:9 said that we know God loves us because he sent His only begotten Son into the world. Watch music video from the church’s website and then talk about other ways we can know and feel God’s love in our lives: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2017-12-0010-i-stand-all-amazed?lang=eng> .
- I Show My Love for God when I Show Love to Others – Does love bring light or darkness into our lives? Read/discuss/summarize 1 John 2:9-11. How can we show more love to others?
 - Douglas Talks Letting Your Light Shine Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-EDzu3oelo>
 - “You Are the Savior’s Hands” story from *The Friend*: <http://media.ldscdn.org/pdf/magazines/friend-january-2015/2015-01-03-you-are-the-saviors-hands-eng.pdf>. How can we be like Christ’s hands in loving and helping others? Discuss ways we can bring the love and light of Christ to the lives of others.
 - If time/interest, do this “Be a Light” page from *The Friend* (specific ways we can bring light to others): <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/2017/04/be-a-light?lang=eng>

5. I Show My Love for God When I Keep His Commandments- Elder Neil L. Andersen said, “Overcoming the world is trusting in the one voice that warns, comforts, enlightens, and brings peace ‘not as the world giveth.’” Whose voice is he talking about? Remind them that the commandments are there to help guide us to being able to overcome the world through Christ. John 5:3 says that God’s commandments “are not grievous.” Explain what this means.
 - Read 1 John 1:5-10. Will we sometimes break the commandments and do something we shouldn’t? Emphasize that verse 8 says, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” The institute manual also states, “Those who seek fellowship with God must leave the darkness of sin in order to walk in the light of Jesus Christ. We deceive ourselves when we ignore our sins or say that we have no sin.” Explain that it’s important to do our best to keep the commandments, but when we do make a mistake, Christ can help bring light back into our lives again if we admit that we did something wrong and rely on Him to help us become better.
6. Lantern Craft – Show “Perfect Love” picture by Del Parson and remind them of Heavenly Father and Christ’s love for them https://deseretbook.com/p/perfect-love-3x5-print?variant_id=117365-print. Make the lantern craft below and have them hang it somewhere to remind them of the light Jesus can bring to our lives.
7. Ten Commandment Cookies - Use Nutter Butter cookies to make these cookies while reviewing what the commandments are: <https://simpleinthecountry.com/ten-commandments-nutter-butter-cookies/>

Additional Ideas:

- “The Light of the World” story from this month’s *Friend* magazine: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/2019/12/the-light-of-the-world?lang=eng>
- Veggie Tales “The True Light of Christmas” video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6p6-52IHAK>
- If your kids are old enough to write, you can do the “Pass-Along Love Cards” Activity from the Ensign’s Family Study Fun for this week: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2019/12/family-study-fun?lang=eng>
- More Great Ideas: <https://www.theredcrystal.org/post/come-follow-me-december-2-8-god-is-love-1-3-john-jude>

Overcoming the World

by Elder Neil L. Andersen

Many years ago, President David O. McKay told of a beautiful experience he had while sailing on a boat toward Samoa. After falling asleep, he "beheld in vision something infinitely sublime. In the distance," he said, "I beheld a beautiful white city. ... Trees with luscious fruit ... and flowers in perfect bloom abounded everywhere. ... A great concourse of people [was] approaching the city. Each one wore a white flowing robe. ... Instantly my attention ... centered upon their leader, and though I could see only the profile of his features ... , I recognized him at once as my Savior! The ... radiance of his countenance [was] glorious. ... [The] peace about him ... was divine!"

President McKay continues, "The city ... was his ... the City Eternal; and the people following him were to abide there in peace and eternal happiness."

President McKay wondered, "who [are] they? [who are these people?]"

He explains what happened next:

"As if the Savior read my thoughts, he answered by pointing to [words in] a semicircle that ... appeared above [the people], ... written in gold ... :

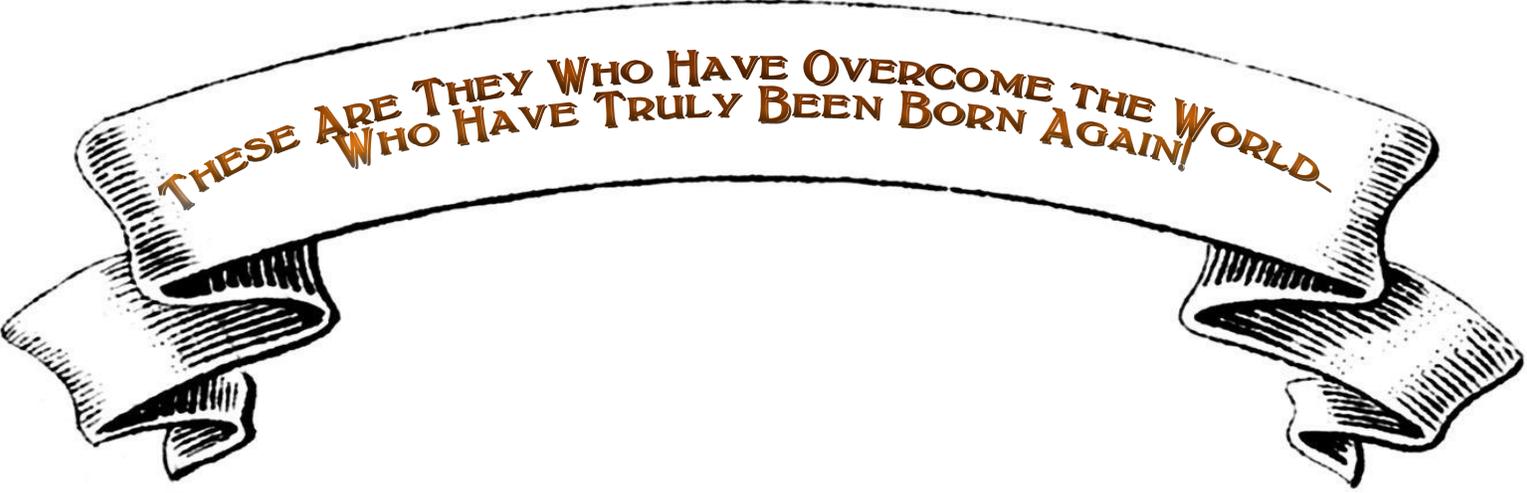
*"These Are They Who Have Overcome the World-
Who Have Truly Been Born Again!"¹*

For decades, I have remembered the words: "These are they who have overcome the world."

The blessings that the Lord has promised to those who overcome the world are breathtaking. They will be "clothed in white ... and [named in] the book of life." The Lord "will confess [their names] before [the] Father, and before his angels."² Each shall have "part in the first resurrection,"³ receive eternal life,⁴ and "go no more out"⁵ from the presence of God.

Is it possible to overcome the world and receive these blessings? Yes, it is.

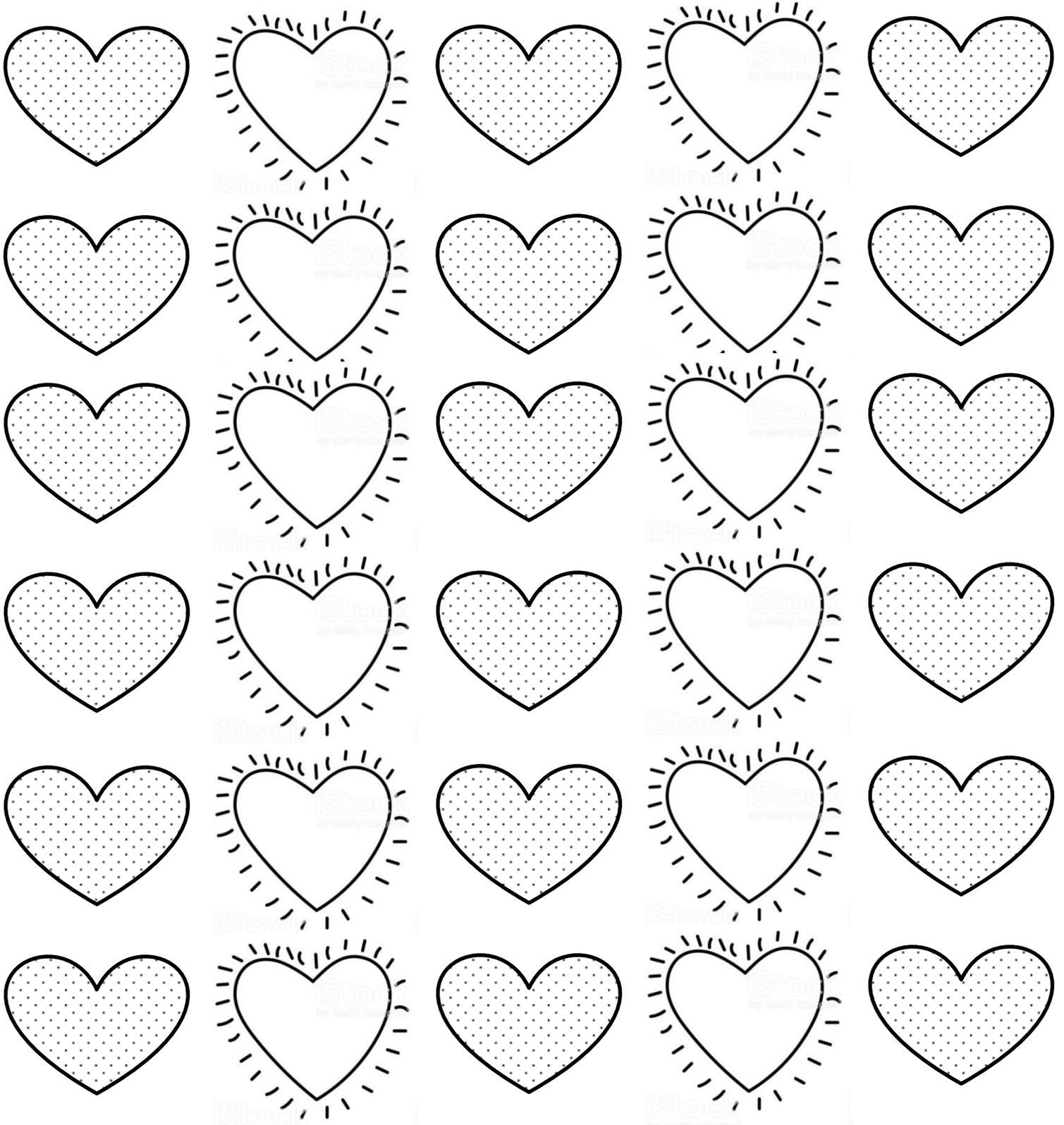
Banner: Color a picture of you and your family under the banner on the next page while talking about the description above from President David O. McKay. Discuss things we need to do to overcome the world so we can receive the peace and joy he talked about in this vision.



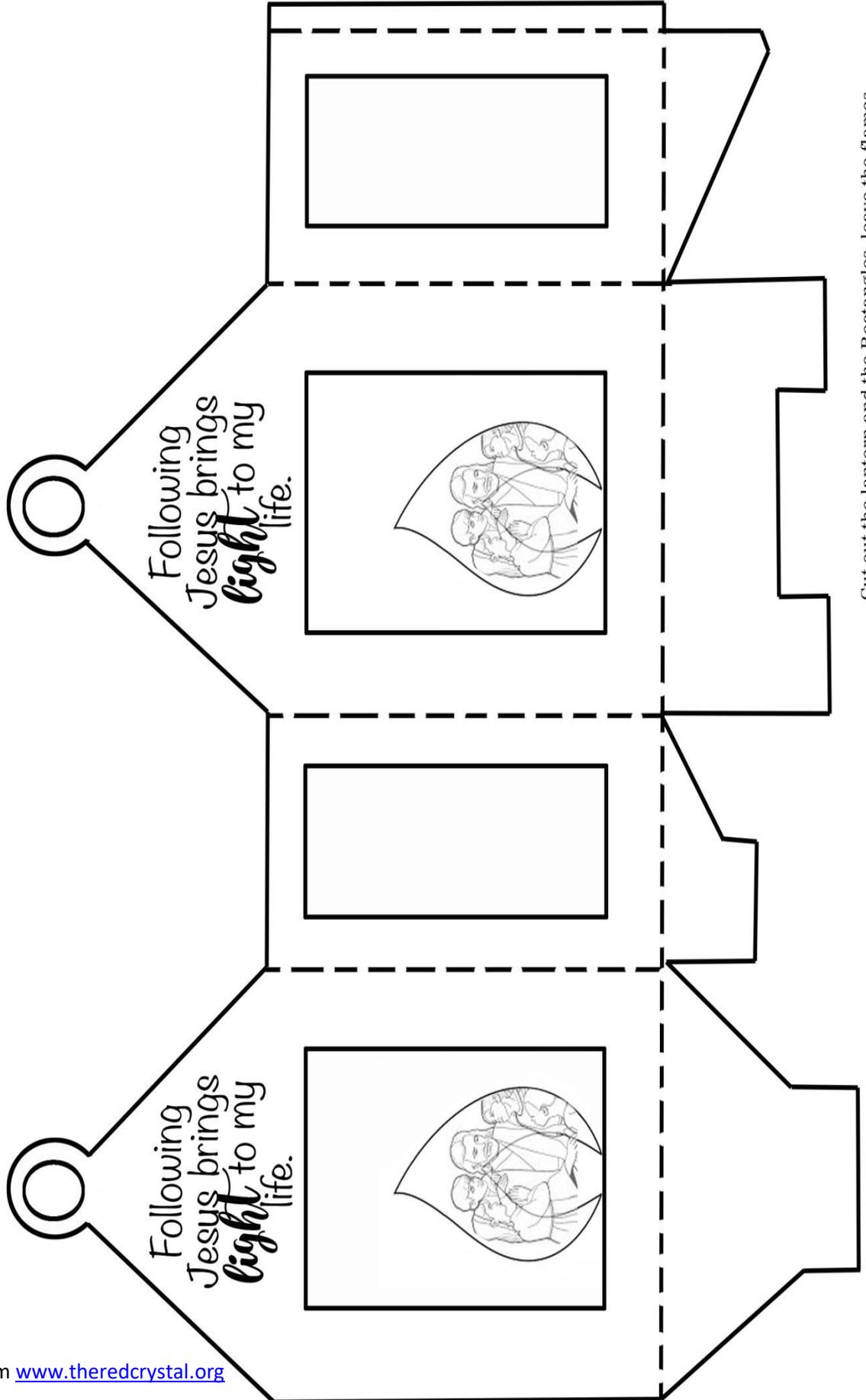
THESE ARE THEY WHO HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.
WHO HAVE TRULY BEEN BORN AGAIN!

God Loves Us A Lot!

Read 1 John 4:7-21. Color in a heart each time you hear the word "love" or "loveth." Discuss/summarize what these verses are saying. Color in the remaining pieces while sharing something we've learned about love.



Lantern: Print on cardstock, color, cut, and put together. Put yarn/string through the top so it can be hung somewhere to remind them to follow Jesus. Could also put a battery-powered tea light inside of it to make it shine.



Cut out the lantern and the Rectangles, leave the flames attached. May want to add a tea light inside the lantern to make the flame of Jesus glow.