



## *Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Meal Ritual*

### *Becoming Light for the World*

#### **Table Center**

This ritual involves an activity at the table prior to serving the meal. In advance, purchase pillar candles, one for each member of the household. Purchase one large pillar candle to represent how your family shares the light of Christ (or use your family's Christ candle if you have one). You will also need acrylic or fabric paints, or permanent markers in various colors, or materials for candle charms. Place the candles and decorating supplies in the center of your table.

#### *We Gather...*

Invite each person gathered at the table to take one of the smaller candles. Talk about what a candle symbolizes for Christians: the Light of Christ. Tell those gathered that at our Baptisms a candle was lit signifying our new life in Christ. When we are baptized, we are invited to share in and become the Light of Christ for each other.

Talk about ways that each person around the table lets the Light of Christ shine. Invite those gathered to decorate their pillar candle with symbols showing how they will be the Light of Christ for others.

Light the larger candle that sits in the center of your table as you pray:

*"Lord, may our family bring the light of Christ into our world."*

#### *We Tell the Story...*

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12)

#### *We Bless Our Food...*

Invite each person to light his or her own candle from the family's candle, and put it at his or her place setting. When each person is lighting his or her candle, pray:

*Lord, may (name the person) bring the Light of Christ into the world.*

Then pray:

*Holy God, you sent your Son Jesus to show us the way to you. He brings light to the darkness. Bless our food and our time together, that it may give us nourishment to be disciples today and everyday. Amen.*

As you share the meal, talk about each person's candle, and what the symbols they put on their candles represent.

#### *We Go Forth...*

As we end our meal, we remember that Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus, our Light, be with us as we go forth from this meal, nourished by our time with each other and by your presence among us. May we be your disciples today. Amen.