



Restoring health. Inspiring hope.®

LMI Sunday School Opening Activity

Note: This guide is designed to be used in a Sunday school opening or classroom as a brief introduction to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Adapt this guide to fit your situation. The goal is to make children familiar with the needs of their global neighbors and teach them how they can share the mercy of Christ through care for their neighbors. This guide is designed to be used with the LMI children's book: *Little Things Make Big Differences*.

(If possible, sit in a darkened room with lights off and windows covered. Have a large candle and a way to light the candle. Optionally, give each participant a small candle, like those used in candlelight services.)

SAY: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

PRAY: O God, through Your Son, Jesus, you made true light shine in the darkness of our sin, granting us eternal salvation. We thank You for Your mercy, which breaks the darkness of sin, death and the devil. May the light of Christ, Your Son, shine in us Your children as we share Your mercy with our neighbor in need. Amen.

(Light your candle, allowing it to be the only light in the room.)

SING: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," *LSB* 849. **(Attached)**

SAY: In Sunday school each week, we learn about our sin and our Savior. We learn that sin brings sickness, trouble and death, darkening our lives and our world.

We learn the Good News that God sent His Son, Jesus, the Light of the world, to save us from our sin by His own suffering and death on the cross and His resurrection on Easter morning.



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Jesus tells us in His Word: “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12 ESV).

When we talk about what Jesus did to save us, we speak of God’s **mercy**—because of sin we deserve death—because God is **merciful**, He forgives our sins and rescues us from the darkness of sin and death—*all because of the Light of the world, Jesus.*

Forgiven, we also forgive, and having been shown mercy, we are merciful to our neighbor who suffers, shining the light of Jesus’ love into the darkness of their suffering.

I’d like to read a story about someone who is suffering with a sickness called malaria. There are many others who are sick and suffering with malaria, and in this story you will learn how you can care for them.

READ: [Little Things Make Big Differences.](#)

(If you have given everyone a candle, begin to light them from your candle. As you do, talk about how the light from the one candle spreads to others and brings light to the room. If you don’t have other candles, simply turn on all the lights in the room.)

SAY: The Lutheran Malaria Initiative is a way to spread the light of Christ in the world. Your offerings help make it possible for workers to treat those sick with malaria as they point to Jesus, who can heal them of the sickness we all have—sin.

ASK: Does anyone have any questions?



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EXPLAIN: Here's how we can help with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (**See resources for ministry leaders: Congregational Starter Kit and School Starter Kit at www.lutheranmalaria.org**).

PRAY: Heavenly Father, bless the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and our partners around the world. Let the light of Your Word comfort sinners with Christ's forgiveness. Move us forgiven ones to be merciful to people suffering from malaria. Make our partners who care for these people bold in speaking about Your Son, Jesus. Let the day soon come when we rejoice because the Lord has given us victory over this dreaded disease. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Extinguish and collect all candles.)

NOTE: Additional LMI resources, including a Bible Study, prayer, school and congregational fact sheets, and a programming and activity worksheet are available at www.lcms.org/lutheranmalaria.org.



**lutheran
malaria
initiative***

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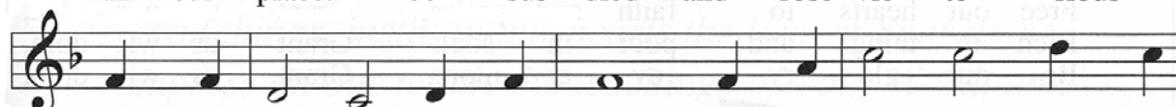
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



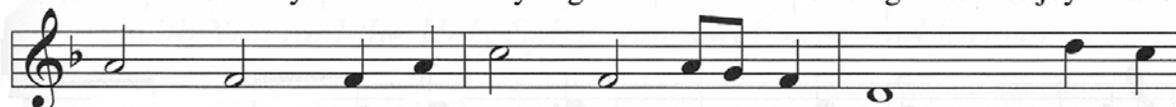
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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The Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) is a partnership of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to mobilize U.S. Lutherans in the global effort to eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. LMI is made possible through support of the United Nations Foundation.