

Place the Creation card from the Godly Play story with the sun/moon/stars on the underlay to your right.

This image helps us remember the lights of nature and our world. The sun is the light of the day, which illuminates the sky and gives us warmth. The moon rules the night, and reflects the sun. The stars are smaller lights in the night sky. Everyday includes the day and night, and they give us a way to count our days.

Place the birthday card on the underlay to your left, on the other side of the flame.

A birthday cake shows another way we count time, in the years of our lives. For each year, we light a candle and it's a celebration of our life and its years.

Place the fireworks card on the underlay to your left, next to the birthday cake card.

Fireworks are another kind of light we use to celebrate – sometimes the birthday of our country or on New Years Eve when we get ready to start a new year. They light up the night sky brightly in celebration.

Pause before continuing.

This time of year, there are holiday celebrations that Light is important in.

Place the Diwali card below the sun/moon/stars on the underlay to your right.

Last month² Hindu people celebrated **Diwali**, which is a festival of lights. We just have one Diwali lamp to help us remember Diwali and its many lights. The festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness and hope over despair. Its celebration includes millions of lights shining on housetops, outside doors and windows, around temples and other buildings in the communities and countries where it is observed.

Place the Hanukkah card on the right, along the front of the underlay.

Another festival is **Hanukkah**, a time when Jewish people remember the miracle of the light lasting for eight nights in the temple in Jerusalem. The people thought the lamp oil would only last for one night, but it lasted for eight nights. It was a mystery how this happened, and a miracle. The Jewish people light the menorah for eight nights to remember.

Place the Christmas tree card next to the Hanukkah card, along the front edge.

Christmas is a celebration that is full of light. The light of the star that some people put on the top of their Christmas tree, representing the star the Magi, or wise men, followed to find a baby king who would change everything. When the angels came to the shepherds to tell them to go find the baby Jesus, they filled the night sky with light. And some people call the man who that baby grew to be: a Light for the World.

² You may need to adjust the words here, depending on when Diwali occurs that year (may be in October or November).

Place the kinara card next to the tree card along the front edge, moving to your left.

Kwanzaa is a celebration when people of African descent light the candles on the kinara to honor their heritage, remember traditions and celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.

Place the lantern card next to the kinara card, completing the circle of cards/images.

In Islam, one of the 99 names for God is An-Nuur, meaning light. Muslims believe that God is the light of the heavens and earth. The most important Muslim festival is **Ramadan**. During Ramadan Muslims fast during daylight. Ramadan is a special time of prayer and reflection for Muslims. The time for Ramadan moves on the calendar each year.

As you say “calendar” you might point to the sun/moon/stars card.

Each of these holidays or festivals includes Light as part of the celebration, to show the way and help people remember.

Pause before continuing.

But there’s something missing: the people.

Add wooden people to the story, around the center flame and among the cards.

As you say the next words, point to each of the people’s chest, touching them gently.

Because the Light is here, too, in each of us. The Light is in everyone we know, even people it’s hard to be friends with or love.

Let’s put one more light in the story to help us remember the other lights.

Add candle above story — closest to you. Light candle.

Do you see how all the light is in one place? Now watch carefully, because I’m going to change the light.

Use candle snuffer to gently lower over flame, then lift and turn over, so that the children can see the smoke waft from it.

Do you see how it’s spreading out, getting thinner and going everywhere?

The Light is not just in one place, but can be in every place – just like we can remember the light in these celebrations any time, and the Light within each of us goes everywhere that we go.

You might end by handing out tea lights to children to take back to the classroom or to home.