**Name of Class**

**How Lovely Shines the Morning Star– CW 79:1,2,4**

**PREPARATION**

**Objective**

The student will:

1. Identify the importance of Jesus as our Light.
2. Apply the meaning of Jesus as our Light to their own life.
3. Sing, perform, and associate the tune with the text.

 **Materials Needed**

1. *Christian Worship* or a copy of the text of the hymn
2. *Christian Worship Handbook* (optional)
3. Bibles
4. NPH Hymnsoft (optional)
5. Pictures of Philip Nicolai
6. A map of Germany

**Words to Know**

bridegroom

pining

eternal

supernal

yearning

**Biblical Connections**

Genesis 1:3-5 (Light at creation)

2 Corinthians. 4:6b

Revelation. 22:13,16

**Key Question**

**Why do we need Jesus to be our Light/Morning Star?**

*Without light, we are dead physically and spiritually. With Jesus as our Light, he gives us the light of faith so that, someday, we may enjoy heaven.*

**LESSON**

**Introduction**

Agree or disagree: We need light to live (allow them to say their opinions but don’t give answer yet). Close your eyes and imagine life without light. Describe it (lost, scary, dark, dreary, uncomfortable, couldn’t play or do anything). What do we get because of the sun’s light (food, energy, ability to see and do anything)? Open your eyes now. We need light to live. Jesus has many special names, one being the Light. Today we will learn **why we need Jesus to be our Light/Morning Star.**

**Background Information**

* The author of this text is Philipp Nicolai (show picture). He was a Lutheran pastor in Germany (show map) during a time when many people were dying from a terrible sickness. He may have conducted 30 funerals a day for a time.
* He lived from 1556 until 1608. He wrote both the text and the tune of the hymn.
* This hymn was originally written in the

German language. The name of the tune is Wie Schön Leuchtet.

* This hymn is often called the “queen” of chorales.

**Stanza 1**

**Words to Know**

Bridegroom **–** Groom

Pining **–** waiting for almost with impatience

1. **Thank goodness God immediately created something on the very first day of creation. What was it? (Genesis 1:3-5)**

*Light*

1. **The Bible compares Jesus to light. What words in this stanza refer Jesus to some kind of light?**

*Morning Star and light.*

1. **The Bible talks about unbelievers who are in the darkness and are spiritually dead; believers, however, walk, talk and are very much alive in the light. Draw a picture that contrasts the two lives.**

*Answers will vary.*

1. **Ever hear the expression “the light bulb went on?” Explain phrase. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6b and tell how that applies to us Christians.**

*****We don’t know about Jesus unless the Holy Spirit works faith in us. Only then does the “light bulb” go on and we know Jesus.*

1. **When did we receive this special light? How do we continue to receive this special light?**

*At our baptisms; through the Word and Sacraments.*

1. **Why is this a good hymn to sing during Epiphany when mission work is often emphasized?**

*Jesus is the Light of the world. He lights the way to heaven through his Word and Sacraments.*

1. **This stanza gives more special names for Jesus. Find them and explain their meaning.**

**David’s Son –** descendant of King David

**Bridegroom –** like a groom waiting for his Bride (the Church) to take her to the wedding feast (heaven)

**King of grace –** he has won salvation for us.

**Prince of graces –** he has won salvation for us

**Stanza 2**

1. **“Your life my life supplying.” What does the writer mean?**

*Since we can’t live without light, Jesus is our true Light and lets us live spiritually forever in heaven.*

**Stanza 4**

**Words to Know**

Eternal – no beginning and no end

Supernal – super; coming from on high

Yearning – intense longing for something

1. **Read Revelation 22:13,16. Make this connection with the words of the hymn.**
2. **What are we yearning for in this stanza?**

*Jesus’ returning to take us to heaven.*

1. **Why can we be sure that Jesus will take us to heaven?**

*He’s given us the light (faith) through the work of the Holy Spirit.*

**Key Question**

**Why do we need Jesus to be our Light/Morning Star?**

**Key Summary**

Without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (light), we are dead physically and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (spiritually). With Jesus as our Light, he gives us the light of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (faith) so that, someday, we may enjoy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (heaven).

**Sing the Hymn!**

Accompaniment and voices can be found on the *CD*.

**Closing Prayer**

Dear Jesus, our Light and Morning Star,

Thank you for giving us the light of faith in this world dark with sin. May our faith be a witness to others pointing them to your holy word and the joy of eternity in heaven. Amen.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Memory**

Memorize stanzas 1,4

**Writing Activity**

*Acrostic Poem:* Write an acrostic poem about heaven using the word LIGHT.

*Write a Prayer:* Write a prayer thanking God for the gift of his Son. Use words from 2 Corinthians 4:6.

**Visual Activity**

*Draw a picture:* Draw a picture of what you think heaven will look like. Think about the phrase from stanza 4 which says “home of joys supernal.”

**Speaking/Listening/Performing**

*Listening:* Listen to performances of this hymn on the internet.

**Hymnal Connection/Cooperative Learning**

*Digging for Nicolai:* Work with a partner to find another hymn in Christian Worship that was written by Philipp Nicolai (hint: look at page 940 in the back of your hymnal). Find at least three names that Philipp Nicolai uses in these hymns to refer to Jesus.

**Performance Option - tentative**