

Children's sermon: May 1, 2011  
"Lights out"

*(This morning's children's sermon is dedicated to the memory of STERLING SALLADE --- cousin to Mateo and Javier and nephew of Peg. Our prayers are with Sterling's family ... and with Mateo and Javier ... and their parents, Peg and Tee. Sterling died last week.)*

Hey, Fred is having a good day. He's a lantern ... and, as you can see, he is shining brightly today. He's doing pretty well in school ... plays in a band ... even made a couple new friends this week. Yes, his light burns brightly.

His buddy Sterling is going through a tough time. How about you????? ----- ever gone through a rough time? ... do you know someone who is??

Sterling was grounded for a couple days ... then one of his friends stopped talking to him ... a few rough days at school ... and ----- as you can see ----- his light is out. A lantern with no light ... not a good thing.

I think there is something missing inside Sterling ... shall we look????  
You know? ---- each of us has "spiritual batteries" inside of us. They are a gift from God: they give us hope, and courage, and faith. There are times ... when we feel like those "batteries" are missing. Look in here ... inside Sterling the Lantern ----- I don't see any batteries. Guess what? ... he needs some "spiritual re-charging."

This is where Fred comes in ... this is when friendship kicks in ... this is when we need to reach out to one another. LET ME SHARE THIS WITH EACH OF YOU ...

***\*\*When you feel down and weak ... when you can't feel your "spiritual batteries" ... NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP ...***

***\*\*And ... when you feel good and strong ... and when you know someone who needs a boost and is feeling low ... HEY, YOU NEED TO DIG DEEP AND REACH-OUT ...***

This is exactly what Fred does for his buddy Sterling.

He reaches deep inside his own soul ... he pulls out his batteries ... and he goes up to Sterling ...  
*"Hey, buddy ... I have something for you ----- you need fresh batteries ... you need some good ol' - fashioned love and support ... I'm putting these inside of you ..."*

*"But, if you give me your batteries, Fred ... there will be nothing left for you!@!!"*

*"Oh, Sterling ... YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE ..."*

Fred gives Sterling a big hug ... puts his own batteries inside of Sterling ... Sterling begins to "light-up" right away. And ... amazingly enough ----- FRED LIGHTS UP, TOO.

Sterling looks at Fred ... "How come you still light up??? .... you gave me your batteries!!"

Fred smiles ----- "When you give from your insides ... your batteries never run out!!"

My friends ... as a reminder of today ... here is your own lantern.

Hey, I'm on a tight budget ... so: "batteries are NOT included."

I guess you'll just HAVE TO SHARE!!

