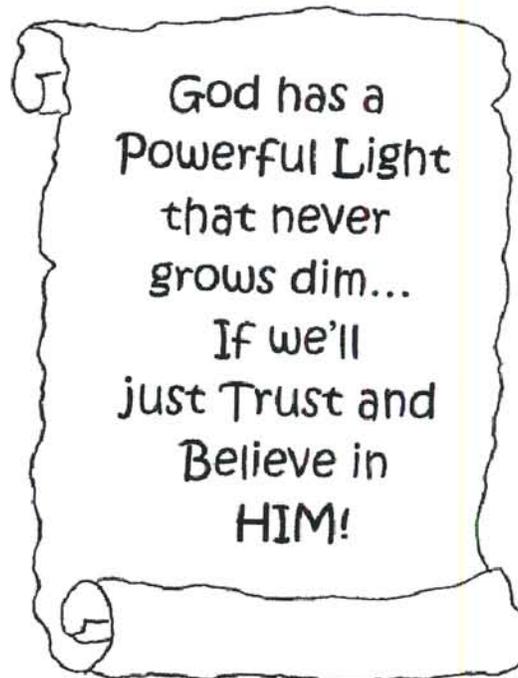
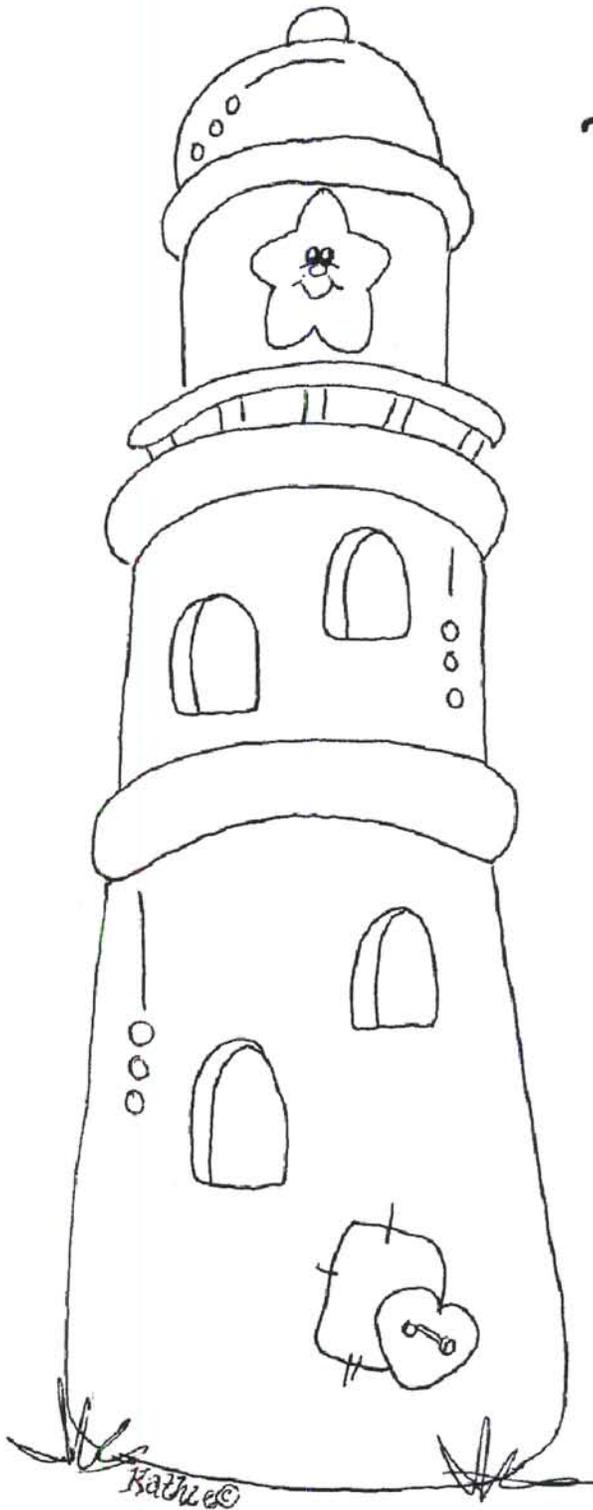


The Mysterious Lighthouse

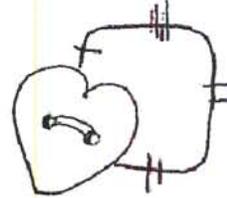
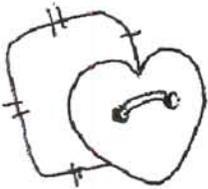
by Kathie Iselin ©



"Oh, send out Your light and Your truth!"
Psalm 43:3 NKJV

The Mysterious Lighthouse

High on a hill overlooking a deep blue sea...
In a village known as Galaxy,
There stands a Lighthouse oh so high...
Sturdy and white against a blue sky.
Next to the Lighthouse that's very tall...
Is a stone cottage that's quaint and small.
In the cottage lives a man, named J.C. ...
Star friends, and a dog no one can see.
They take care of the tower's Light...
Making sure it's always bright.
This is the story that I've been told...
About a time when the stars grew old.

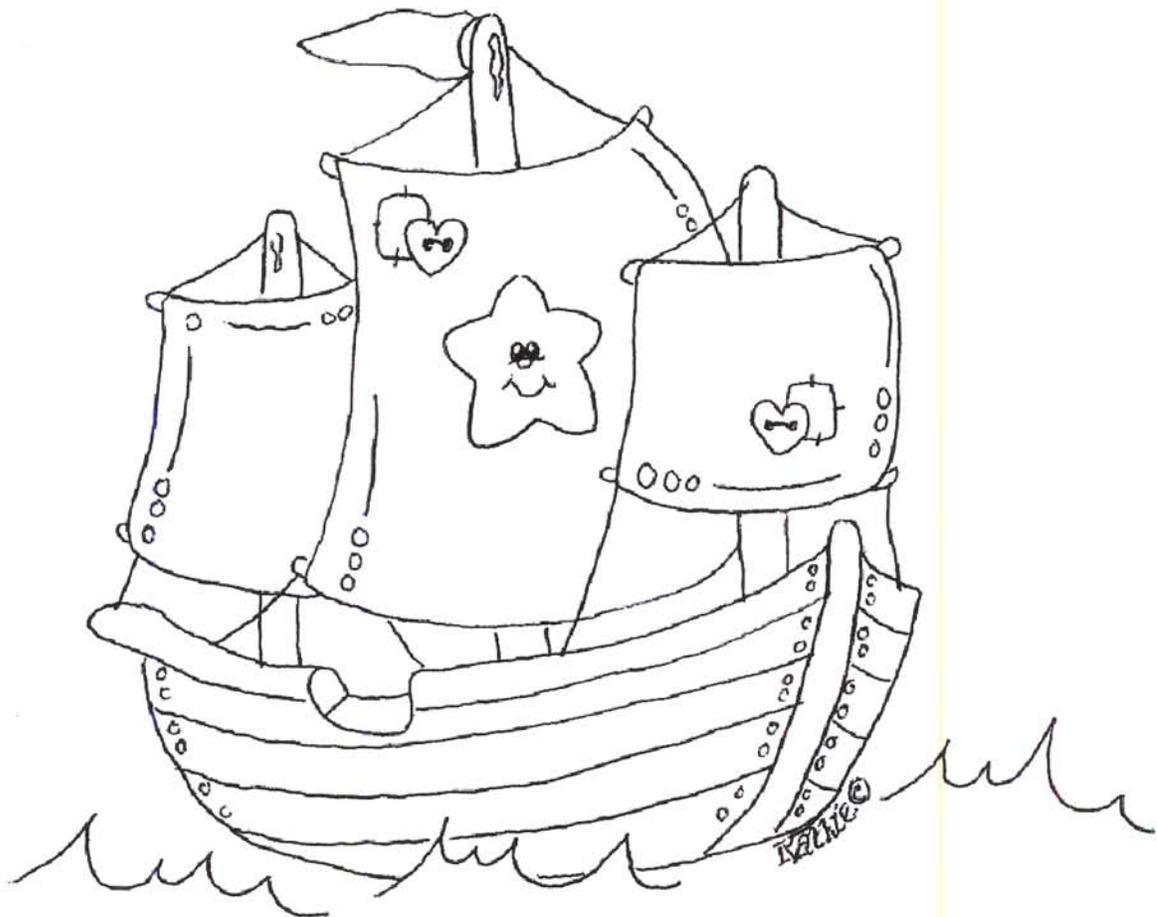


It was a beautiful summer day in Galaxy and the view on top of the cliffs was breathtaking. J.C., the keeper of the Lighthouse, was out for a walk with his dog, Spirit.

Now Spirit was an unusual pup, since most of the time he was invisible. Like the wind, even though you can't see it, you still know it's there. The pair seemed ageless, and had lived in the little stone cottage for years.

Their main job, was to make sure the light in the tower, **never** went out. This was especially important, for ships that traveled at night and during storms, because they **all** depended on this very unusual Light Source.

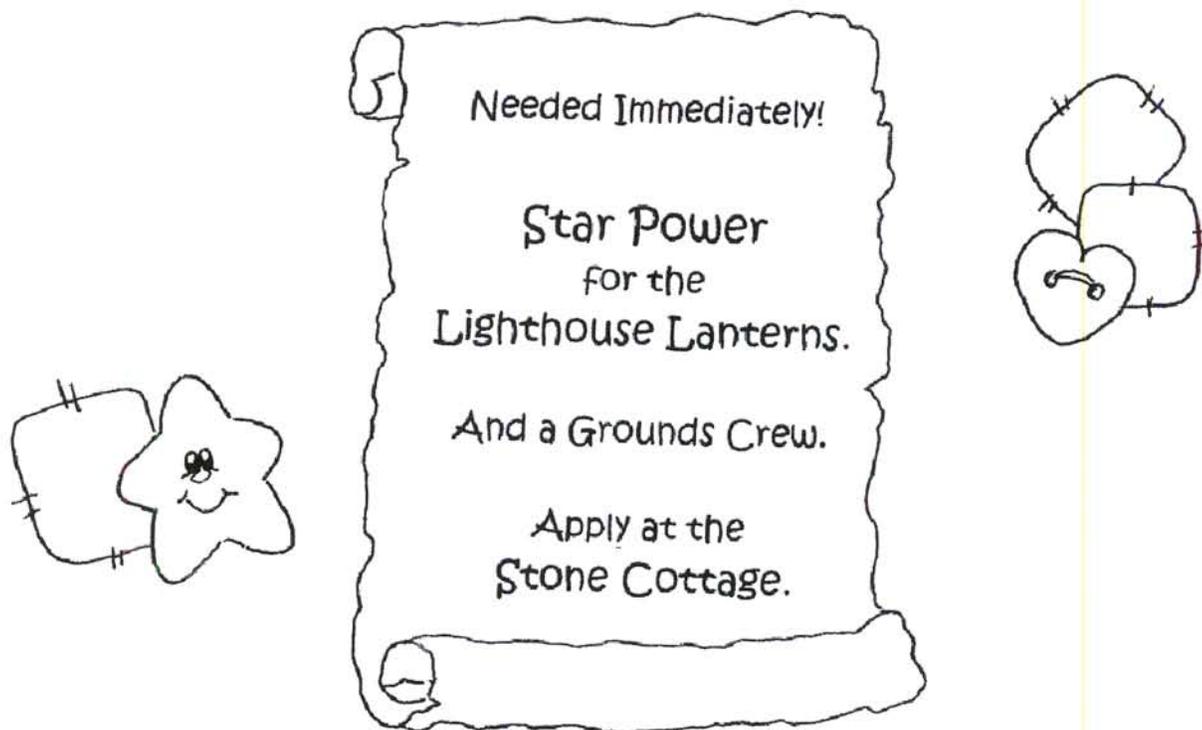
Without the "mysterious" Lighthouse, beaming its Light out over the rocks, many a sea worthy vessel could get shipwrecked.



One day, J.C. noticed that the Star Power, he used in the lanterns, was getting weak. The light was provided by a group of stars, known as the Ancients. They were very old and had been at their jobs, for what seemed like forever.

J.C. decided to ask the Ancients, if they wished to retire. They were all extremely wise and had already begun discussing, the need to hire a new team of Star Power.

Now that they were all in agreement, J.C. and Spirit went into the village and posted this notice:



Since Galaxy was a small little town, there weren't very many jobs available, much less something as important as this. Therefore, all the young stars quickly gathered around, excited to read the new announcement.

Most noticeable in the crowd, were Ruby, Gloria, and Flash. These friends were leaders among their peers and considered some of the brightest stars at school.

Ruby, had a radiant, red, light, Gloria, a warm, golden, glow and Flash, was the color of fire, that flashed like lightening.

"Isn't this wonderful," Ruby exclaimed. "Just think we can still all be together after graduation." "Just about forever," Gloria said dreamily as she looked at Flash.

"It's a very important job and one that's been in my family for generations," Flash said proudly. "At supper last night, my great grandpa said all the Ancients were discussing retirement. Soon they'd be looking to the youth, in Galaxy, to carry on the tradition." Flash explained.

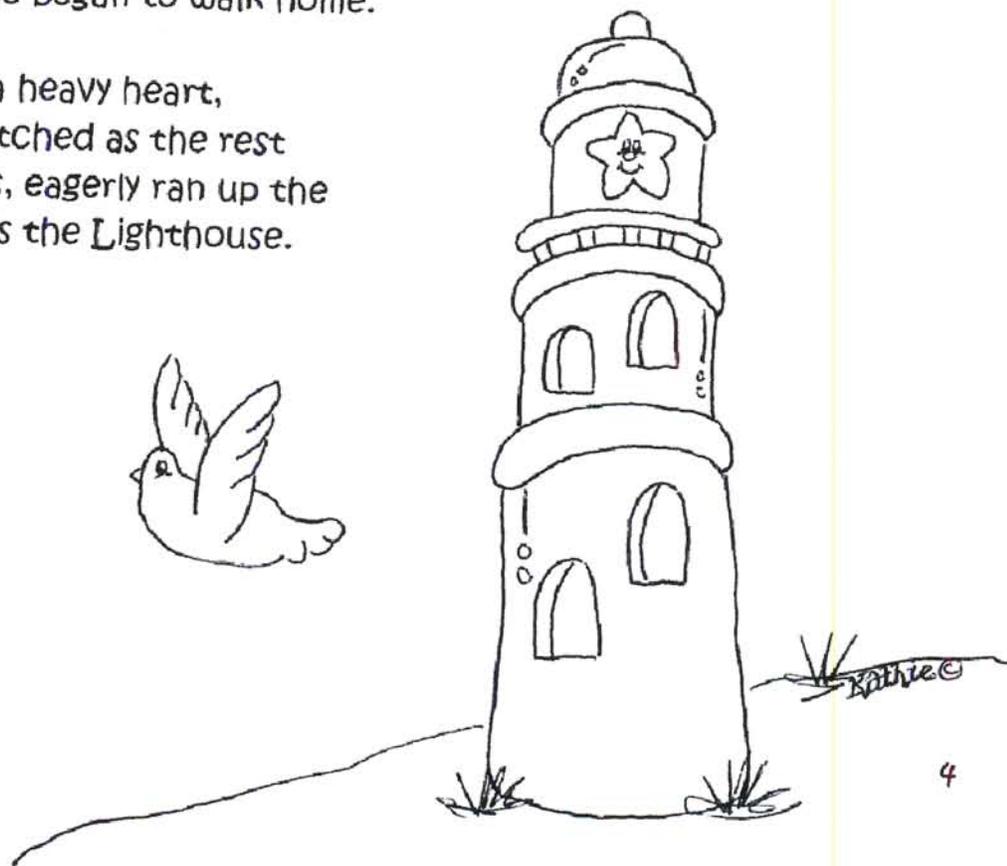
"My great grandma's an Ancient too," Twinkle shyly spoke up. All eyes turned to the small and not so bright star, known as Twinkle.

"Too bad you're just plain white and not blazing yellow like your grandma," Ruby said. Twinkle hung his head and looked miserable.

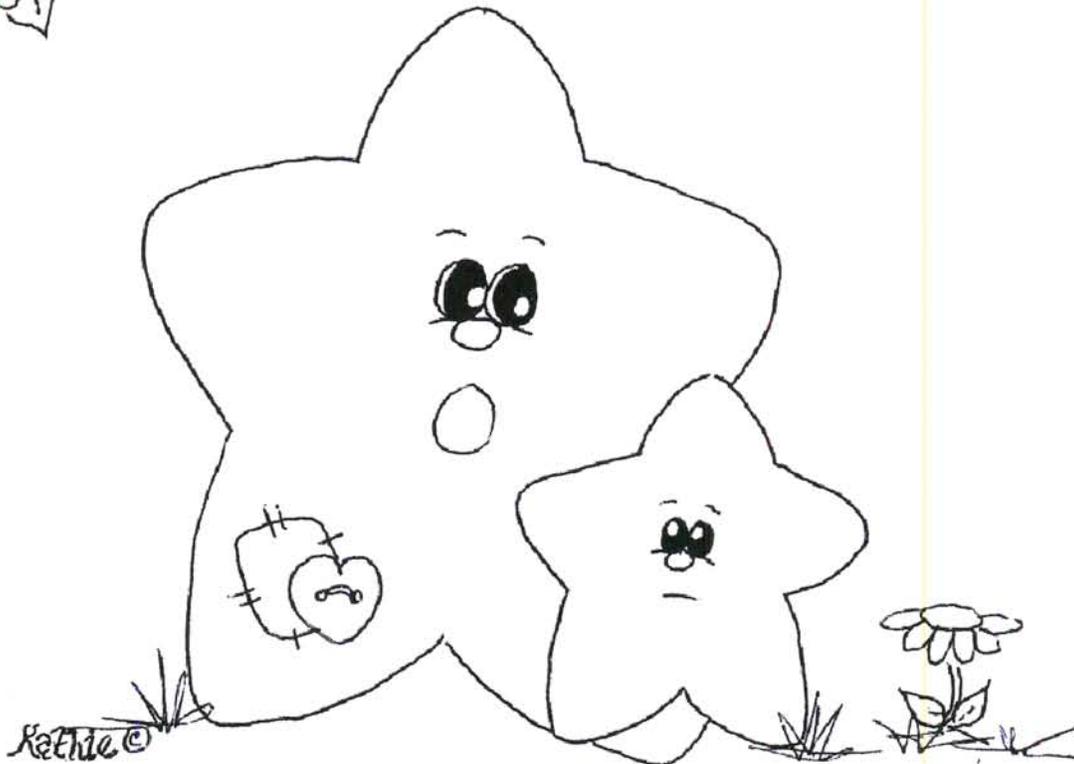
"Oh, Twinkle, I'm so sorry," Ruby apologized. "I didn't mean to hurt your feelings." "That's okay, you were just being honest," Twinkle said as he turned to leave.

"Aren't you going to head up to the Lighthouse with us," Gloria asked? "Oh please do," Ruby said. "Maybe later," Twinkle replied, as he began to walk home.

With a heavy heart, Twinkle watched as the rest of the stars, eagerly ran up the hill towards the Lighthouse.



One look at Twinkle's unhappy little face...
And his mom was there with a loving embrace.
One of those big hugs, moms and grandmas are famous for...
When you're so sad, you don't think you can smile anymore.
Somehow, when you're being held really tight...
Safe in those arms, a hug just makes it right!



"What's wrong honey, why so sad," asked Twinkle's mother?
"Oh mom, why couldn't I be blazing yellow like grandma or gleaming gold like you and dad? Then I'd have a chance at getting the job as a Lantern Light," Twinkle said.

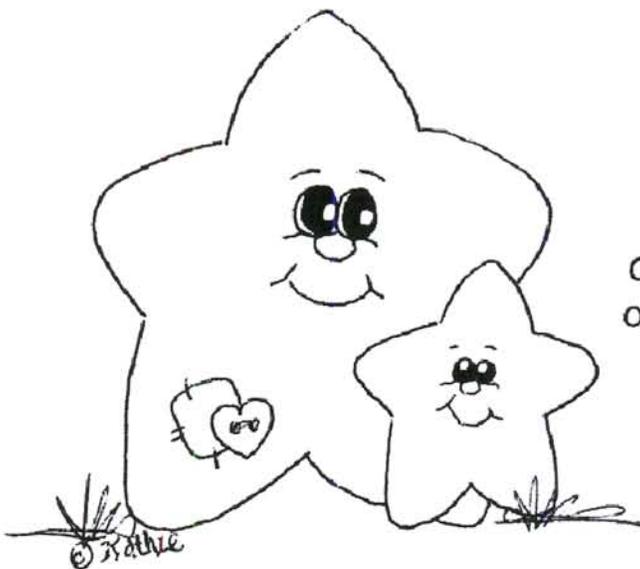
"There was a notice in town today, saying they needed new Star Power, so all the kids went up to the Lighthouse to apply for the jobs." "Ruby, Gloria, and Flash are sure to get hired, but nobody wants a star, that's just plain old white and not very bright," Twinkle said sadly.

"Hush now," said Twinkle's mother. "Your great, great, grandpa was milky white just like you, and he was an Ancient in his day. Color isn't the only thing the Lighthouse Keeper looks for. Being honest, sincere, hardworking, and willing to help others, are all very important qualities. And I'm sure J.C. looks for those when hiring Star Power. You have all those wonderful gifts and more." She said reassuringly.

"And just remember, there are four lantern positions open, so even if Ruby, Gloria and Flash each get hired, that still leaves one more opening." She reminded.

"Besides being part of the grounds crew is also an important job. Light doesn't shine very brightly through dirty windows!" His mother said, with a glowing smile on her face.

"Now you go on up to that Lighthouse," Twinkle's mom said, and apply for one of those jobs!"



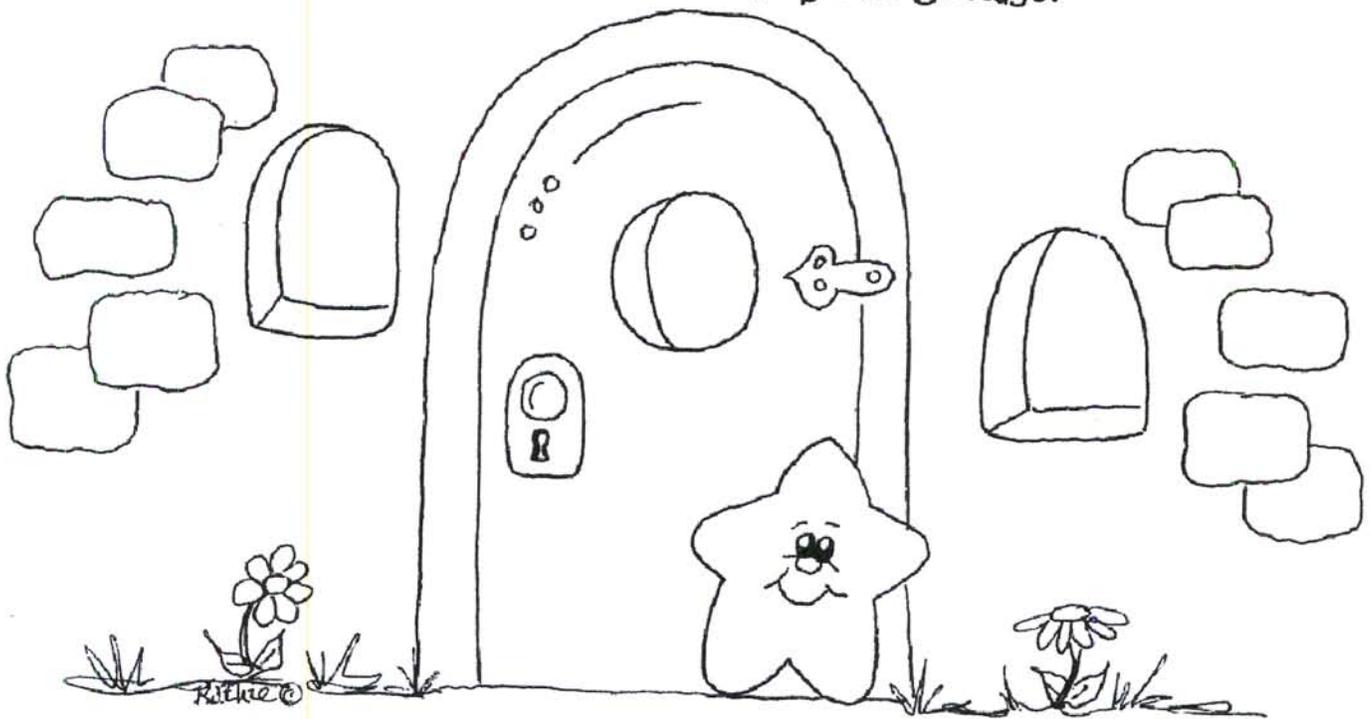
"Thanks mom, you're the best!"
"I feel better already," Twinkle said, a big smile on his own face.

"I forgot about the grounds crew and you're right; there are four openings for Lantern Lights! Now all I have to do is shine my very best, and I just might get one of them!"
Twinkle said excitedly.

Before Twinkle's mom could say another word, out the door he ran, heading up to the Lighthouse as fast as he could run.

When Twinkle reached the top, he took a moment to rest and look around. "Wow! This place is so beautiful it takes your breath away!" Twinkle exclaimed as he looked out over the sea.

Remembering his mother's encouraging words, he took a deep breath and knocked on the door to the Stone Cottage.



"Welcome Twinkle, please come in, I've been waiting for you," J.C. said.

"You were... how do you know my name?" Twinkle asked.

"I know everyone's name, for my Father Created all of you, did you know that?" J.C. replied.

"Wow"... did He really? Gosh, I didn't know that," Twinkle said in awe.

"And what's more, I know all about you", J.C. explained. "I have a book that tells Me you're a very hard worker and can be depended on to do your best. You're honest, helpful, kind and work well with others, all very important qualities that are needed for this job." J.C. said, smiling at Twinkle.

"I've already hired Ruby, Gloria and Flash, to fill three of the four openings as Lantern Lights. Would you like to have that fourth spot on our team," J.C. asked?

"You bet I would! Do you really mean it? You want me as a Lantern Light," Twinkle replied, unable to believe his ears.

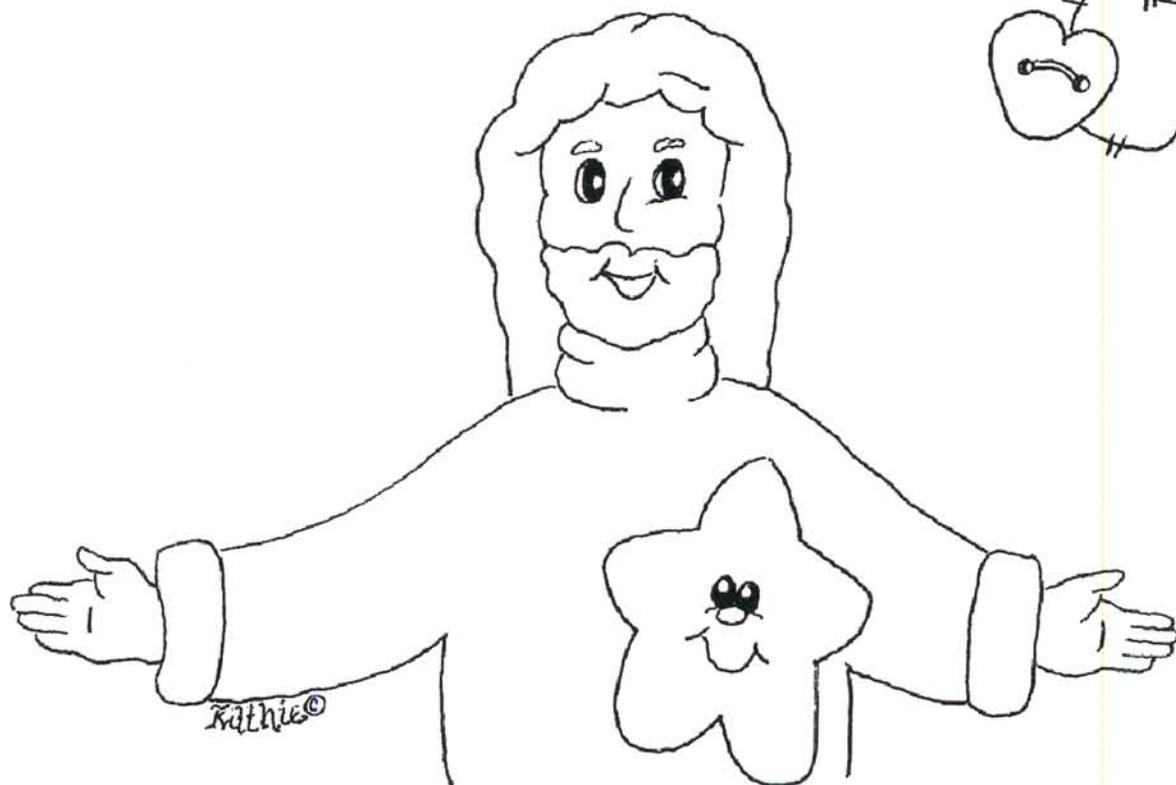
"That's right, I believe you meet all the requirements I'm looking for," J.C. said.

"But I'm not blazing yellow like my grandma, or gleaming gold and radiant red like Gloria and Ruby. And I'll never be as fast and colorful as Flash. I really want the job, and I know I'll do my best, working real hard every day, but I'm only plain old white. So are You sure You really want me for this job?" Twinkle asked.

"Absolutely!" J.C.'s voice boomed. "There's something you need to understand, so I want you to listen very carefully, and remember what I've said. Sometimes the things on the **INSIDE**, are more important than what the rest of the world sees on the **OUTSIDE**."

"My Father made all of you with special qualities; each one while different is still wonderfully made. So don't compare yourself to others, your qualities will shine through when the time is right.

So trust Me for I know this to be true." Explained J.C. as He opened His arms and welcomed a very happy Twinkle.



The next day the new Star Power crew was assembled and awaiting instruction. Ruby, Gloria, Flash and Twinkle all were given jobs in the tower as Lantern Lights. All the rest of the stars wanting to work, were also given jobs as part of the grounds crew. Their very important task, was keeping the windows clean and shiny, so the Light could be seen for miles. Everyone was happy and worked very hard all week long.

Then one extremely dark day... A storm was headed their way.

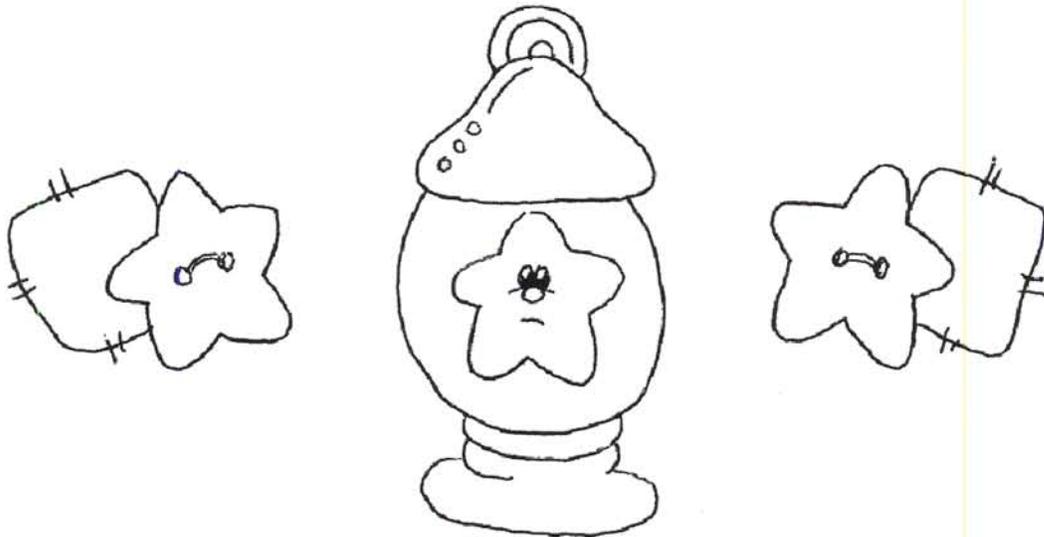
They'd have a long and difficult night...

To keep their lantern beams shining bright.

Before long the wind began to blow and was soon howling through the tower. The rain came down hard and cold. At first the little stars were frightened but then they felt Spirit's presence, as he barked and ran up the steps to the tower. J.C. was right behind him, taking the stairs two at a time, shouting words of encouragement.

When he reached the tower, he explained that a ship was heading their way, so everybody needed to be turned up to full power.

After a while the rain finally stopped, but a dense fog had rolled in, which was even worse, because it was impossible to see into the distance. As the ship kept coming closer, J.C. realized that Ruby's red light, Gloria's golden glow and even Flash's fiery orange, weren't penetrating the thick fog. So He grabbed Twinkle's Lantern and headed to the edge of the cliffs.



"Everything's going to be alright Twinkle. Just trust and believe in Me, draw on My strength and together we'll be able to save that ship." J.C. reassured. Twinkle closed his eyes, drew in a deep breath, and concentrated on J.C.'s strength.

As He held Twinkle high into the air, his little beam burst into a brilliant, pure, white, light that cut through the thick fog. Instantly the ship saw the bright beam of Light and turned sharply to avoid crashing into the rocks.

"You did it J.C. shouted, you saved the ship!"
"We did it," Twinkle humbly replied...
"I couldn't have done it without You by my side."



High on a hill overlooking a deep blue sea...
In a village known as Galaxy,
There stands a Lighthouse on so high...
Sturdy and white against a blue sky.
Next to the Lighthouse that's very tall...
Is a stone cottage that's quaint and small.
J.C. and Spirit are still there to this day...
Teaching young stars how to show the way.
And Twinkle still shines his brilliant white Light...
To guide all the ships that pass in the night.

