

gallons//. **Módios** was commonly wood containers, usually made by the carpenter's shop at Nazareth and normally used by the peasants and shop sellers of grains and cereals. Majority of scholars agree that candles was not used by Jews for lighting their houses at that time in Judea; consequently the Greek word **luchnon(s)** used by Matthew signifies lamp, an oil-fed portable lamp or other illuminator usually set on a stand. In a similar way the word **luchnia** used by Matthew as lamp stand, sometimes can be used literally or figuratively, normally translated in the New Testament as candlestick which on this context means lamp stand. In fact, **luchnos** is a common lamp normally used by the poor families and the peasants and the lamp for those were rich is described in Greek as **lampadas** = which means torch or lantern. like the story of the ten Virgins (Mt 25:1-13). Also when the word **luchnia** is used literally means candelabrum; It's usually related to those were wealthy. Indeed, Jesus is speaking with his disciples, and the same time he's addressing the simple people of his time through parables which communicates elements of an ordinary life. The **luchnos** (lamp) in a Jewish basic-house, was not set on a table, but on a stand or tall pedestal. The basic houses normally consist of a single room so that tiny light benefits all; After using it might be placed under the **kline** (bed)-(Mk 4:21; Lk 8:16) or under the **módios** (basket)-(Mt 4:15; Mk 4:21).

Therefore, nearly to this parable of the "candle" (**luchnos**), there is a common Jewish proverb which says: "Do not leave a flask of balsam in a dunghill, but move it from its place, that its smell may spread and men may receive benefit from it."

READ THE WORD SECOND TIME // **MEDITATIO**

Silence 8 minutes;

- a) Instrumental questions for meditation - (*literary and theological levels*).
 - * Literary: approach the text with very simple questions: Who? What? Where? Why? When? How? With what means? How does the text fit within the literary context of the book and its immediate context?
 - * Theological: to discover, through the reading of the text, what God (Jesus) has to say to me through his parable; What Jesus reveals to me? Jesus invites me to be what? For what? Is my vocation or ministry a *phos*-(light) to the *Kosmos*-(world)? Where I am placing my *luchnos*-(lamp/candle)? Does my *luchnos*-(lamp/candle) matters to me? Is my *luchnos* or *phos* benefiting others?
- b) Chooses a word, phrase or verse which strikes you personally.

STRENGTH THE WORD // **DELECTATIO**

One by one, each one lights his candle and shares some key words, phrases or verses from the reading itself only. Hold the lit candle until the moment you will share the message of God.

READ THE WORD THIRD TIME // **CONTEMPLATIO**

Silence 8 minutes - (link your heart and your imagination with the Holy Word); Have a dialogue with God or Jesus on his Word. "He looks at me and I look at him".

SHARING THE HOLY WORD // **VERBO & NUNTIUS**

Sharing the Word and its message for me with others: Group members share what they have heard in their hearts, trying to use only the first person singular (I, me, my). As you end your share put the lighting candle on the recipient prepared.

THE HOLY WORD IN THE WORLD // **VERBO & MUNDI**

Listen to a short story or history (below).

One day a young boy asks his father what is the value of his life. Instead of answering a father told his son to take a small stone and go sell it at the market. If anybody ask the price raise two fingers and don't say anything. The boy then went to the market and a woman ask "how much is this stone, I want to put it in my house?" The boy didn't say anything and raised up two fingers and the woman said \$2? I'll take it! And the boy went home and told his father a woman wants to buy this stone for \$2. The father them said so I want you to take this stone to a museum if anybody wants to buy it, don't say a word and just put up two fingers. The boy then went to the museum and a man wanted to buy the stone. The boy didn't say a word and just put up two fingers and the man said \$200? I'll take it! The boy was shocked and went running home and told his father a man wants to buy this stone for \$200! His father then said, son, the last place I want you to take this stone is to a precious stone store. Show it to the owner and don't say a word and if he ask the price just put up two fingers. The son then went to a precious stone store. He showed the stone to the owner. Where did you find this Stone! It is one of the most rarest stones in the world! I must have it! How much would you sell it for? The boy put up two fingers and the man said I'll take it for \$200,000! The boy not knowing what to say, ran at home to his father.