

**Show LED flashlight**

**What is an LED flashlight for? What is its purpose? TO BE LIGHT!**

**Its purpose is not to look good**

**It's reason for being is not to be a certain color**

**It's purpose is to be light!**

**Tell about getting it and not being able to get light.**

**Read the instructions!**

**Small film of plastic between battery and light.**

**Remove it.**

**There was light!**

**Yes, once I had followed the instructions and removed the obstacle of the led from contacting the battery, the LED became what it was made for, to give light**

**We gather to begin this season of Lent.**

**We might ask: What is the purpose of Lent? Simply put: it is to grow closer to God.**

**Just like the purpose of the flashlight is to give light,**

**The very reason of our existence is to grow closer to God.**

**Isn't it why we are here? We all feel a little restless, a little distance from God. Uncomfortable in God's presence. Maybe absent from him.**

**The purpose of Lent is to grow closer to God so that we can prepare to celebrate His resurrection at Easter with heart and mind renewed.**

**And so what do we do as we gather. We read the instructions!  
The Gospel gives us excellent instructions.**

**Give alms ( be generous) don't blow a horn!**

**Prayer: don't stand on the corner of 8 Mile and Evergreen and shout out your prayer**

**Fast (don't disfigure your face)**

**All in secret so that the Father may repay you.**

**Theme of our Lenten Journey: be blessed, be light**

**Purpose of Lent: remove any barriers which keep us from being in contact with God.**

**We are called to be blessing and be light.**

**All we have to do is FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS!**