



## #138 *The Lens*



*There once lived an entire family in a tiny house at the base of a lighthouse. In the lighthouse was a great, bright light. Surrounding the light was a wonderful set of glasses, called LENSES - as big as windows and as thick as your arm. Each glass had the special property of being able to focus the lighthouse light and send it out into the ocean very far as a beam. Ships could see this beam and know that they were near land, so that they should take care not to crash into the rocks at the edge of the land.*

*There was a boy named Henry who lived with the family in the lighthouse. One day, Henry invited his friend, Jack, to come and stay for the week. Henry was quite excited because he and his family lived alone at the edge of the land and sea and he loved to have friends over. Jack was excited to visit a real lighthouse and to see the mighty light and the magical lenses. When Jack arrived, Henry ran out to greet him, and of course you know what they did first. Henry got permission from his parents, then took Jack right to the top of the lighthouse. Up 69 steps and there it was! The light was bigger than Jack, himself! When he saw the*

*lenses, he said they looked like great windows. The boys played in the lighthouse, then they played in the yard, then they went into the house to play a bit more before dinner.*

*After dinner, Henry's father and mother introduced Jack to a very different game they loved to play. They pretended to put glasses on. They pretended the glasses had a magical LENS like the ones in the lighthouse. Then, they would look around and try to shine some light on something new and wonderful. Henry's mother took the first turn. "Ok, I'll look at the water that is all round us. An ordinary way to view water is to say that we see it every day and drink it and wash with it and swim in it. But to look through the LENS, I observe that water MEANDERS! That's right, it winds back and forth as it runs. It goes in twisting, curving paths." Henry's mother jumped up and poured water down a tilted plate. It meandered left and right. His mother continued, "Rain twists. Rivers and streams and waterfalls meander. And if you observe water carefully, you can see that the meandering and twisting are always the beginnings of circles." Now she jumped up and ran to the window, "Come and look at the sea with your magic lens! Look at the circles! The ocean waves are coming into the shore with a curling motion that is always starting a circle, then crashing on the rocks!"*

*Next, it was Henry's turn. He thought for a few moments, then jumped into the game saying, "I've got one. Although water is soft, it can crash on the rocks outside and make them smooth!" "That's a good one!" said Henry's mother. "And, I'll add that if water gets in the cracks of rocks and freezes, it is strong enough to break them apart," joined in father. All this time, Jack was listening. Now, he spoke up, "I think I have a way to see water through the magic lens that my mother told me once. She said that I was born after she carried me in water in her womb when she was pregnant. She said it was like magic that it was water that kept me warm, protected my body, and carried all the food and drink I needed." Henry and his father and especially his*

*mother sat back in appreciation. “Jack,” Henry’s mother said in a soft voice, “even though you just learned our lens game, you have touched our hearts, tonight.”*

*WHAT LENS ARE YOU LOOKING THROUGH?*