



SHINE | WEEK 1 | APRIL 7, 2024

Preschool Lesson

Light of the World

Bible Story: Light of the World • Jesus says to let my light shine • Matthew 5:1-2, 14-16

Memory Verse: “Let your light shine.” Matthew 5:16, NIV

Key Question: Who can do what Jesus says?

Bottom Line: I can do what Jesus says.

Basic Truth: I am made by God to reflect His image (act like Him).

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Have you ever been somewhere where it was so dark you couldn't even see your hand in front of your face? So much darkness that you have to shuffle slowly, stumbling your way across the room with arms stretched out, hoping, searching . . . and then finally, with the flip of a switch, LIGHT! Light changes everything.

This month, we're talking about light, but not just any light. We're talking about Jesus—the light of the world—and how when we do what Jesus says, we shine. We shine the light of Jesus! After this month, we hope every time you and your preschoolers see a lamp or a star-filled sky, you remember that people were made to shine, and we have Jesus—the light of the world—to show us how. So, let's not hide our light. Let's SHINE and light up the dark so others can see their way to Jesus.

Story Focus: Jesus says to let my light shine. Jesus says that we are the light of the world. We can shine our light to show the world that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. We all have the choice to either hide or shine our light, and we want preschoolers to know that when they do what Jesus says, they shine their light so others can see Jesus.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow



KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group...

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (Kids respond.) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (List rules while counting on fingers)

1. Be kind. We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. Be safe. We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. Have fun! We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

“Can everybody follow those rules today? (Kids respond.) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let’s say them all together! Are you ready?”

1. I am made by God. What is it? (Kids repeat.)
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? (Kids repeat.)
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? (Kids repeat.)

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.

‘Let (move flat hands forward from hip)
your light (palms facing forward)
shine,’ (twinkling hands moving out)
Matthew 5:16. (Open hands like a book).

“Ok, Now let’s sing and worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: YOU LOVE ME, SUPER DUPER KID)

Sing the worship songs together.

INTRO SKETCH

(Small Flashlight, Small Cardstock Cut-out for Current Week (W1 Lightbulb, W2 Megaphone, W3 Heart, W4 Star), Story Box)

LGL brings the story box with the props to the center of the room. You should have a small flashlight and small cardstock cut-out for the current week (lightbulb).

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here…”

Pull out flashlight and small cardstock cut out for Week 1 (lightbulb)

Hold up the flashlight. Do you know what this is? (Pause for responses). YES, it’s a flashlight! What does a flashlight do? (Pause for responses). YES, it helps us to see when it is dark. We are going to turn down our lights because I have something cool to show you. (Have someone in your room turn off or dim your lights as low as they go depending on your space and the comfort level of your kids). I have a small shape in my hand. I’m going to use the flashlight to help you see it. (Aim the flashlight towards a solid wall, panel or case, turn the flashlight on and place the cut-out image directly in front of the light. Adjust yourself closer or further away from the wall to make the image larger/smaller). Do you see it? What is it? (Pause for responses). YES, it’s a LIGHTBULB! I love how the light shined bright and allowed us to see.

Let's watch our Bible story to see how Jesus wants us to shine our light.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

Wow! Was that a great story? Yes! When you are kind, you shine your light, so people see Jesus is kind. When you share, you shine your light, so people see Jesus shares. When you help, you shine your light, so people see Jesus helps.

“Raise your hand if you can do what Jesus says and shine your light. (Pause for responses).”

Yes! We can do what Jesus says and shine our light! When I ask you, ‘Who can do what Jesus says?’, I want you to say, [Bottom Line] ‘I can do what Jesus says!’ Let's try it! Who can do what Jesus says?” (I can do what Jesus says.)

SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, ‘I am made by God to reflect His image (act like Him). We can act like Jesus and shine our light when we are kind, share and help.

PRAY

“Let's pray together. (Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)

“Dear God, we want to do what Jesus says. We want to shine our light so everyone can see that Jesus loves them and He wants to be their friend forever. Please help us shine. You're the best, God, and we love you! In Jesus' name, amen.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: Light of the World. Jesus says to let my light shine • Matthew 5:1-2, 14-16

Memory Verse: “Let your light shine.” Matthew 5:16, NIV

Key Question: Who can do what Jesus says?

Bottom Line: I can do what Jesus says.

Basic Truth: I am made by God to reflect His image (act like Him).

FLASHLIGHT FINDER

(“Flashlight Finder” Activity Page - 1 per child, Yellow Crayons - 1 per child, Flashlight - 1 per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Locate “Flashlight Finder” on cardstock, one per child. Write each child’s name on their flashlight cutout.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color the “beam” of their flashlight yellow and the flashlight handle in any color they desire.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, we’re going to make a special flashlight that will help us remember our Bible Story today.”

During the Activity: “See this part of your flashlight picture? (Point to the beam.) This is the light, so color this part yellow. (Pause.) Now pick any color and color the rest of your flashlight. (Pause.) Great job! “In our Bible Story today, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, ‘You are the light of the world.’

- When you are kind to people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus is kind. Which picture shows kindness? Let’s shine our flashlights on it (shine real flashlight so light appears on the correct picture). You are shining your light like Jesus!
- When you forgive people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus forgives. Which picture shows someone saying, “I forgive you”? Let’s shine our flashlights on it (shine real flashlight on correct picture). You are shining your light like Jesus!
- When you share with people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus shares. Which picture shows friends sharing? Let’s shine our flashlight on it (shine real flashlight on correct picture). You are shining your light like Jesus!
- When you help people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus helps. Which picture shows someone helping? Let’s shine our flashlight on it (shine real flashlight on correct picture). You are shining your light like Jesus!

After the Activity:

When we do what Jesus says, we shine our light to show the world that Jesus loves them and

wants to be their friend forever. Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.”

TURN OVER THE LIGHT

(“Light Pictures” Activity Page - 3 per group)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Spread out light pictures, face down in the center of your group.

During the Activity: Encourage children to flip over the pictures reveal the “light”. Once all pictures have been turned over, flip them back over, and play again as time allows.

After the Activity: Talk about how we can shine our lights by doing what Jesus says.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come join me over here. I have a game for us to play with these pictures.”

During the Activity: “Let’s turn over the pictures like this to shine the light. (Demonstrate.) Can you work together to turn over the rest of the pictures to make them shine too? Let’s go! (Pause.) This is so fun! Wow! Look at all the light! Let’s flip them all over and play again!” (Repeat as desired.)

After the Activity: “That was so fun! You made all the lights shine. In our Bible story today, we talked about how Jesus says to shine our light. We can shine our light by doing what Jesus says! Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!”

MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster - 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

‘Let (move flat hands forward from hip)
your light (palms facing forward)
shine,’ (twinkling hands moving out)
Matthew 5:16. (Open hands like a book).

PRAYER

“Let’s pray together. (Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)

“Dear God, please help us do what Jesus says so we can shine our light. We love you, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.