



SHINE | WEEK 3 | APRIL 21, 2024

Preschool Lesson Early Church

Bible Story: Early Church • Jesus says to love like Him • Acts 2:42-47; John 15:12; Hebrews 10:24

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 love like Him. Jesus tells his friends to love people the way He loves them. So, the early church did what Jesus says and loved like Jesus! If someone needed a coat, a person would share their coat. If someone needed a place to stay, a person would share their home. If someone needed food, a person would share their food. The early church ate and talked and prayed together. They loved each other because Jesus loved them. Just like the early church, we can do what Jesus says and love like 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 (heart).

“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 3 (heart)

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 HEART! 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! Jesus’ friends loved like Jesus by sharing a coat, their home and food. They loved like Jesus by loving each other and singing and praising God.

“Can you love like Jesus? (Pause for responses).

“Yes! We can do what Jesus says by loving people and shining 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 love people the way Jesus loves us.

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 and love people the way Jesus loves us. Help us to be kind and share with others, so we can shine and show the world that Jesus loves them. Thank You, God. We love You! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Story: Early Church • Jesus says to love like Him • Acts 2:42-47; John 15:12; Hebrews 10:24

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

Key Question: Who can do what Jesus says?

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LET MY LIGHT SHINE CUP

(Paper Cup – 1 per child, Stickers (1 “I Let My Light Shine”, 1 Smiley Face, 1 Star and 1 Heart per child), Parent Note – 1 per child)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather cups and stickers (Let My Light Shine, Smiley Face, Star and Heart) for each child in your group.

During the Activity: Guide the children step-by-step to place the stickers on their cup as you review today’s Bible story.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Come sit with me in the circle. Today we’re going to make a special cup for you to take home.” (Pass out one cup to each child.)

During the Activity: “I want you to hold your cup gently. We’re going to talk about our story today and I have stickers for you to put on your cup.

1. I have a bright yellow sticker. It says, “I Let My Light Shine”. Can you say, “I can let my light shine!” (Pause for responses.) Awesome! We learned today that when we love like Jesus, we let our light shine! I want you to put this sticker on your cup. (Pause for children to place stickers.)
2. Who remembers the boy in our story today? Was the boy hot or cold? (Pause for responses.) Yes, he was cold. What did Jesus’ friends do to show love like Jesus? (Pause for responses.) Yes, they gave the boy a coat. How do you think he felt when he put on the coat? (Pause for responses.) Yes, he was warm, and he smiled. I’m going to give you a smiley face sticker to put on your cup to remember you can love like Jesus when you give. (Pause for children to place stickers.)
3. There was a man with a bag in our story today. Did he have a place to sleep? (Pause for responses.) No. How did Jesus’ friend show the man love? (Pause for responses.) Yes, they shared their home with him. He had a place to sleep. I’m going to give you a star sticker to put on your cup to remember you can love like Jesus when you share. (Pause for children to place stickers.)
4. Do you remember the girl in our story? Why was she holding her tummy? (Pause for

responses.) Yes, she was hungry and needed food. Did Jesus' friends love her like Jesus? (Pause for responses.) Yes, they did! How did they show her love? (Pause for responses.) Yes, they gave her food (bread). I'm going to give you a heart sticker to put on your cup to remember you can love like Jesus when you help give people something they need. (Pause for children to place stickers.)

After the Activity: "When you get home today, put your cup in a special place to help you remember to love like Jesus. When we do what Jesus says and we are kind to others by giving, sharing and loving like Jesus, 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."

2-3's LET YOUR HEARTS SHINE

("Hearts Shine" Pictures - 1 per environment, Heart Stickers - 1 per child, Flashlight - 1 per environment)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Tape "hearts shine" pictures around the room at child level.

During the Activity: Lower the lights of your environment. Shine the flashlight towards one of the hearts and have kids go place a heart on the picture.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over here with me! Let's explore the light from these flashlights!"

During the Activity: "Tell me what you see when I turn on this flashlight. (Turn flashlight on and point it towards the wall, table, or floor.) Wow! Look at the light! It's really bright! But what else do you see? (Point to one of the hearts on the wall. Pause.) Yes! A heart! This heart has a picture of [see scenarios below]. Can you put a heart on the picture? Now, give yourself a hug and say, "I can love like Jesus!" Repeat as you shine the flashlight on each heart picture.

- We can love like Jesus by helping each other.
- We can love like Jesus by sharing with each other.
- We can love like Jesus by praying with each other.

After the Activity: "We can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus! And when we love like Jesus, we shine! Everyone, give yourself one more HUG and tell me: Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!"

4-5's KINDNESS CHARADES

(No Supplies Needed)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather all the children in an open space in your activity area.

During the Activity: Call out actions that show kindness and help children act them out. Depending on the age of the children in your group, you may need to demonstrate motions with them.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hey, friends! Come over here and let’s play a game. I’m going to call out a way we can love like Jesus, and I want you to act it out.”

During the Activity: “Okay, are you ready? Let’s go! We can love like Jesus when we . . .

- We can love like Jesus when we help someone carry something heavy. Show me what that looks like. (Pause.) Wow! So good!
- We can love like Jesus when we pick up our toys. Show me what that looks like. (Pause.) Terrific!
- We can love like Jesus when we invite someone to play. Show me what that looks like. (Pause.) Nice!
- We can love like Jesus when we share a snack. Show me what that looks like. (Pause.) You are so good at this game!

(Continue with different actions like waving to a community helper, sharing a toy, cheering for a friend, giving a hug, etc.) That game was a lot of fun and I loved watching you act out different ways we can love like Jesus!”

After the Activity: “In our Bible Story, Jesus told us to love like Him and when we show kindness, we love like Jesus. All those actions we just did show people we love Jesus and can do what He 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 and love people the way Jesus loves us. 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.