



COMPASSION | WEEK 1 | SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Elementary Lesson

Lights Up

Monthly Virtue: Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else’s needs

Bible Story: Lights Up (You Are the Light of the World) • *Matthew 5:14-16*

Key Question: How can you be a light?

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

Memory Verse: “Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16 (NirV)*

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Think back to a time when someone made time for you. Maybe that looked like caring for you when you were sick, or teaching you how to tie your shoe, making food for you, or teaching you how to read or learn a new skill. No matter what it is, when people make time for us, it can bring us joy. It’s like a light shining on a dark day. Caring for one another isn’t always the easy thing to do, but it certainly is what Jesus asks of us. When Jesus gave the command in Matthew 5 to let our light shine, it wasn’t just to bring joy into each other’s lives, but also to bring glory to God. We are reflections of Who God is, and as we “Live Bright” this month, we’ll discover exactly how we can shine God’s light.

Key Question: How can you be a light? There are so many different types of light—from the sun, to a flashlight, to a candle, and so many more! Each kind of source functions in a different way, but its purpose is the same: to bring light into someone’s world. We hope this question gives preteens a chance to hold great conversations about what it means to shine God’s light—not just at home, but everywhere they go.

We start the month in **Matthew 5:14-16** with the Sermon on the Mount. In this passage, Jesus announced to the crowd, “You are the light of the world.” Each of us can shine God’s light to the world around us. When we shine our light by living God’s way, we bring glory to God and show people what God is like.

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

Doors Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: 5th GRADE TWISTED) “This is specifically for our 5th graders: We have a special event that’s just for YOU and YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS! On September 15th from 2-3:30 PM, we are having a game of kickball. But not just regular kickball – TWISTED KICKBALL! We will be celebrating your whole 5th grade year by having extra fun that’s just for you guys. We are *kicking* off the year with kickball. We’ve got some fun surprises for you, so you don’t want to miss it! Make sure you register to attend.

(SLIDE: 5th SUNDAY FUNDAY) “It’s coming up on one of my FAVORITE KidCity holidays at the end of this month...5th SUNDAY FUNDAY! That’s right, I totally count it as a holiday, because it only comes like 3 or 4 times a year. This month, we are celebrating by having a GLOW party. It’s going to be totally awesome and you’re going to want to bring your friends with you.

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap)*. Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

FREEZE FLASH

(Flashlight, Blindfold)

It’s a brand-new month, which means that we have a brand-new Monthly Virtue that we will be talking about. This month we are all about COMPASSION. That’s a big word, so let’s define it...

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else’s needs

The greatest example of compassion we have is God caring for us enough to send us a rescuer from the consequences of our sin. God gave us His son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place and then raised Him back to life so we can have a right relationship with Him. Now, we can’t do the

same thing, only Jesus could make a way for us to have a right relationship with God again, BUT we can still have compassion for other people and treat others the way we want to be treated. Check out our monthly verse...

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) “Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16 (NirV)*

More on that later, but for now, let’s play a game!

(SLIDE: FREEZE FLASH)
(SLIDE: FUN MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY:

- **CHOOSE VOLUNTEER:** Choose one person to stand in the middle of the room and be blindfolded. They will slowly spin in a circle while holding the flashlight out.
- **EXPLAIN:** This game is basically Four Corners with a twist. Instead of corners, do walls, and everyone will be walking in a circle in the opposite direction that the person in the middle is spinning (so if the person in the middle is going clockwise, everyone else goes counter-clockwise) When the music stops everyone freezes. Whichever wall the person in the middle is pointing to is out (if they are in between walls, have a little grace). Play for 4 minutes.
- **SUGGESTED VARIATION:**
 - If your space is too big, consider shrinking it with cones or SGLs.
 - If your space is able to get dark enough to see the flashlight beam, have anyone in the beam when it freezes out.

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)
(VIDEO: ALIVE, GOD IS ON THE MOVE)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)
(3 Flashlights or Battery-Operated Tea Lights)

“It should go without saying, but light is really important. Have you ever imagined what would happen if we didn’t have light? What would happen if the sun suddenly stopped bringing all the warmth or shininess? How would plants react? How would the temperature change?”

“According to scientists, the world without light would be devastating. All the water and land would be frozen solid! Of course, this would mean all plants and animals would be unable to survive! Without light, there would be severe consequences. It would be a hopeless situation.”

“Likewise, this would be a hopeless place without Jesus. We will all face times when reflections of Jesus are hard to find. As a result, we can feel like we’re wandering around in the dark! But this



makes me wonder. What if Jesus has called US to brighten up dark places? In other words, what if we're supposed to be a light? And if we are supposed to be a light, what would that even look like? Where are the dark places that need to be brightened?"

"All of these questions are incredibly important to answer. Discovering the answers could change the way you interact with people and places for the rest of your life! Thankfully, early followers of Jesus captured some of Jesus' own thoughts on this very topic! Let's check it out in the Bible!

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)

The words Jesus shared were not intended only for the crowd standing on that hillside when He spoke. All of what He said can be applied to everyone who wants to follow Jesus. You and I can be a light to the world by showing others what Christ is like with our words and actions! Let me show you what I'm talking about.

As you go through the scenarios, turn on one of the flashlights/tea lights. Consider having a volunteer coming up and holding each light. If possible, dim the lights in the room for a more dramatic effect.

Let's say you want a big glass of milk and cookies after you get home from school. After you finish, you go to stick your dishes in the dishwasher but notice it's full of only clean dishes. Dishes are not your chore of the day, but at the same time, your parents have been under a ton of stress at work.

(Turn on light) When you opt to unload the entire dishwasher without being asked as a way to lighten your parents' load, this is a way to shine your light and let your parents see Jesus through your actions.

"Let's pretend your friend is having a bad week. Coach called them out for always showing up to practice late and for not wearing the proper gear. Their Language Arts teacher gave them a terrible grade for their book report. To top it off, their pet hamster isn't feeling well. Life is feeling completely overwhelming for your friend. When your friend is telling this to you on the bus ride home, you feel God prompting you to encourage your friend and pray for all they have going on. So that is exactly what you do on the bus! *(turn on light)*

"Pausing to pray for your friend on the bus after school is a way to shine your light and allows your friend to see Jesus through your actions!"

"What if you have a particularly hard teacher this year? He doesn't tolerate goofing around. His homework is long and difficult. All his tests require lots of studying! Let's pretend you and your friends are standing in the hallway when one of them starts talking badly about this teacher.

(Turn on light) "If you stop the negative conversation and remind them kindness is the way to go even if the teacher's class is difficult, then in doing so, you are shining your light! This allows your friends to see Jesus through your actions.

“Jesus said we are the light of the world! When we follow Jesus, we have the light of Jesus in us! It is our responsibility to shine Jesus’ love and compassion to others. Doing this should not happen every once in a while or when you feel comfortable doing so. Rather, we are called to live our lives every day shining the light of Jesus to all those we encounter.

“Our motivation for doing this shouldn’t be because it makes us look good! Instead, we do this because it points people to God, who has love and compassion for everyone.”

“When you read about the life of Jesus in the Bible, you see that He gave us an incredible example to follow. Not only did He tell us how to shine our light, but Jesus also showed us how to love others well. When we trust Jesus and follow His example, it changes how we treat others! It’s like our Basic Truth says,

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am made by God to reflect His Image (act like Him).

“Every day you will have opportunities to shine your light and reflect Jesus! For some, this will be difficult. But don’t forget we can ask God to help us see the needs of others and think of ways to help. This leads me to a question I want all of you to consider before heading to Small Groups.

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘How can you be a light?’

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank you for the way Jesus showed love and compassion, and for the example He gave us of how we should treat other people. Please help us to shine your light to the people around us every single day. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUP

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TALK ABOUT IT (K-5th)

There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.

Key Question: How can you be a light?

(Answers will vary: tell people about Jesus, read my Bible so I know how to love like God loves, be humble, encourage friends to do the right thing, do the right thing even when it’s hard, etc.)

LOOK IT UP (K-5th)

Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.

Look Up: Matthew 5:14-16

Say: “The book of Matthew is in the *New Testament*. Matthew is a part of the first four books of the New Testament called ‘The Gospels’ – which tell the story of Jesus. Who can name the first four books of the New Testament?” *(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)*

PRACTICE IT (K-5th)

(“Shine Light” Activity Page – 1 per group, Yellow Post it Notes – 5 per kid, Writing Utensils)

What You Do:

- Explain that there are so many ways we can shine God’s light to those around us.
 - It could be something big, such as helping someone in need. But sometimes, it can include simple ways such as giving someone our attention or smiling at someone.
- SAY: “Look at our picture here. This candle represents God’s light in us. We have some examples of 4 different places that we can shine God’s light. What are they? *(school, home, store, playground)*. What is a way that we can shine God’s light at... *(pick one of the places and repeat for all)*?”
- Give each kid a pen or pencil and 5 post it notes.
- Ask kids to think of ways they can shine God’s light and write/draw their ideas on a note.
 - They do not have to be limited to those 4 areas! Encourage kids to think of other places that they can shine God’s light (as a missionary overseas?)

- *K/1st Adaption: Instead of having kids write their own notes, consider working as a group and writing down their ideas yourself and then having kids place the 'light ray'.*
- When most kids are done, give each kid a turn to share what they wrote.
- After kids share, encourage them to put their notes around the candle so it looks like God's light is spreading far around – definitely beyond the paper!
- Point out how the sun grows brighter as its rays grow. Likewise, as we continue to do things that shine God's light, we become a brighter message that brightens the world with the love of Jesus.
- ASK:
 - Who do you know that needs light in their life?
 - What can sometimes stand in your way of shining?
 - Do we have to be perfect to shine God's light?

GET STRONGER (K-5th)

("Light Verse" – 1 per 2-3 kids, Bibles, Memory Verse Poster, Crayons, Dice – 1 per 2-3 kids)

What You Do:

- Review Memory Verse. Say together a couple of times.
- Have kids get into groups of 2-3.
- Give each group crayons, a die, and a "Light Verse" Activity Page.
- Explain that when you say GO, teams will race to be the first ones to color every light bulb. They will roll the dice and color in one bulb that matches the number. Point out that if they roll a 5 then they have to give each other a high five. If they roll a 6 then they need to all say the verse before they can roll again.
- Play until there is a winner.

PRAYER

"God, thank you for showing compassion on us by sending us your Son, Jesus. I pray that we will have eyes to see those around us who could use our compassion, and I pray that we will care enough to help them. I pray that we are a bright light in the world around us! Amen.