



COMPASSION | WEEK 4 | SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

# Elementary Lesson

## I Saw the Light

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

**Bible Story:** I Saw the Light (Jesus Is the Light of the World) • John 8:12

**Key Question:** Where have you seen the light of Jesus?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

**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:** Where have you seen the light of Jesus? Jesus brought light to the world in a way that no one had ever seen before. He showed love and compassion to everyone He met. He came to be our Savior and bring light to a dark world. This question will help preteens think about how God sent Jesus to be light in our darkness . . . and how they’ve seen that in action in the world around them.

We wrap up the month in John 8:12, where Jesus said to the people, “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.” Because of Jesus, we never have to go through life alone. Jesus brings light to guide us and help us grow. And, of course, the light of Jesus meets our greatest need. When we turn away from our sins and choose to follow Jesus, it’s as if He shines a bright light into our hearts and our lives.

**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: 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY FUNDAY)** “It’s coming up on one of my FAVORITE KidCity holidays NEXT SUNDAY...5<sup>th</sup> 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 (4 Min)

#### STAND OUT

(No Supplies)

Today, we are continuing our conversation 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: STAND OUT)**

**(SLIDES: STAND OUT SLIDES #1-11)**

**HOW TO PLAY:**

- **EXPLAIN:** You will show a slide with a bunch of people or objects on it. Kids will need to identify which object doesn't belong with the rest. Have kids stand to guess. The second slide will reveal the answer.
  - **IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW:** Some of the people that are the odd man out belong in different 'universes' - like Spiderman is the odd man out because he is in the Marvel universe and not DC like all of the other superheroes shown.

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

## **WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**

**(VIDEO: PRAISE, EVERY BEAT)**

## **BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)**

**(No Supplies)**

Question for you guys, and raise your hand to answer, what are some things that people share with you? (*time, food, germs, secrets, snacks, etc.*) That's a great list!

"If you think about it, every single day people share things with us. It might even happen so frequently that we don't really think about it. Sometimes the list could include a piggyback ride on your big-brother's back. Or your mom could share her last bite of brownie with you! Maybe your big brother shares his favorite video game with you after school. Any one of those experiences would make your day better!

"Other times, people in our lives may share unwanted stuff with us. This could be when your best friend shares with you one last goodbye hug before they move to a new town. Someone in your class could share strep throat with you! Maybe someone from your neighborhood shares insults with you about your appearance. Nobody in this room would want to experience that sort of sharing.

"The point is sharing things—good or bad—with others is incredibly common.

"In fact, there are some things we share that might be more difficult to see—like sharing Jesus' light. For those who have been around the church for a while, maybe you've heard someone say we should share Jesus' light with others, but you might wonder to yourself: *What does that even mean?* How do you share Jesus' light? Who do you share the light with? Does the light require batteries?

"All these are fair questions. And good questions for us to explore together today! When we have good questions, we need some good answers. One of the best places for us to find answers is in

the Bible. Remember, the people who wrote the Bible had personal experiences with God. God inspired them to write about those experiences so others could get to know and discover more about God, too! Let's check out one of those moments now!"

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 6 MIN)**

Jesus is the Light of the World! He did not come to the world just to be a good teacher or helpful neighbor. Although He was those things, Jesus came into this world to change it with His great love and compassion. The world needed Jesus to show us the way back to God!

"The Bible is clear. Everyone has sinned and rebelled against God's ultimate goodness. That sin breaks our relationship with God. And there is nothing we can do on our own to fix it! It's like living in the dark. But God saw our need for a Savior and sent Jesus. Jesus, God's very own Son, came to take the consequences of our sins. When we turn away from the wrong things we've done and choose to follow Jesus, He restores our relationship with God, and the Light of Jesus shines in us.

"The religious leaders tried to silence Jesus and killed Him. But Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story! After being buried in a tomb for three days, Jesus came back to life. The Light of the World could not be put out!

"Jesus showed the world that His light is brighter than the darkness and more powerful than death. And He never intended to keep that light to Himself. Remember what Jesus said:

*Open the Bible to John 8:12 (NirV) and read.*

*"I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."*

When we accept the gift of salvation from God by trusting in Jesus - we are filled with Jesus' light. We can also be assured of this...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.

If you've never heard this Good News before, ask someone like your small group leader to tell you more about it. If you have heard this before and you've already made the decision to follow Jesus with your life - think about what's next! Is your next step to be baptized? Is your next step to practice talking to people about God? Is your next step to work on having a consistent quiet time where you pray and read your Bible? Think about it! There're always ways for you to be MORE filled with Jesus' light.

For now, let's answer this question...

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** Where have you seen the light of Jesus?

*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, I'm so thankful that you chose to have compassion on us that while we were still sinners, you sent Jesus to die in our place. We don't deserve it and we could never earn it, but you still chose to love us and give us a place to belong in your family. We are so thankful for that. Please help us to grow more like you and to share your love and light with others. Amen.

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**





## SMALL GROUP

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

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*Matthew 5:16 (NirV)*

### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

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

Key Question: Where have you seen the light of Jesus?

*(Answers will vary: When my friend included another friend with special needs in a game, when my dad comforted me when I was sad, when my brother prayed for us at bedtime, etc.)*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

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

Look Up: John 8:12

Say: “The book of John is in the *New Testament*. John 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-5<sup>th</sup>)

*(Yellow Beach Ball or Balloon, Permanent Marker)*

What You Do:

- Invite kids to stand in a circle.
- Stand in the circle with them and hold the beach ball (or balloon).
- Compare the ball (or balloon) to the sun.
- Ask kids to describe things that sunlight provides.
- Summarize their responses into the following categories:
  - Guidance (*It helps us to see the way.*)
  - Growth (*We need the sun to grow.*)
  - Greatest need (*We cannot live without the sun!*)
- Write the 3 main words in different places on the ball (or balloon) (Guidance, Growth, and Greatest need).
- Ask the group how Jesus gives us **guidance**. Tell kids to raise their hands if they have an idea.

- Toss the ball (or balloon) to someone who has their hand raised and give them a chance to share.
- Direct that kid to toss the ball (or balloon) to someone else with their hand up.
- Continue giving kids a turn to share.
- Repeat by asking how Jesus helps us with our **growth** then repeat again by asking how Jesus meets our **greatest needs**.
- Guide a conversation around Jesus being the Light of the world:
  - Encourage kids by explaining that we all need light in our lives.
  - Every single one of us has done wrong things that hurt others and break our relationship with God. We cannot fix that on our own. But God saw our need and sent Jesus to be light in our darkness.
  - When we choose to follow Jesus, we can live with God forever!

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(“Light of the World” AP – 1 rectangle per kid, Bibles, Memory Verse Poster, Crayons/Markers)

### What You Do:

- Ask if anyone has memorized the verse for this month.
- Look up **Matthew 5:16** and read.
- Practice saying the verse.
- Put the Memory Verse Poster so everyone can see it. Have kids sit in a circle. Starting with yourself, turn to the person next to you and give them a high five. As you do, say the first word of the verse. Then they will turn to the person next to them, high five, and say next word, and so on.
- Continue until you have said all of the words.
  - Bonus fun! Don’t have a specific ending, just keep going on repeat, getting faster and faster!
- **ASK:** When you go into a room and it’s dark, what do you do? (*turn on the light*) How often during a day would you say that you turn the lights off and on? Probably more than once! In the same way, we have toaaa keep shining the light of Jesus into the world around us. Today, we will decorate these light switch covers, and when you go home, I want you to cut out the hole in the middle and tape it over your light switch. That way you can always be reminded to shine Jesus’ light!
- Pass out the activity page and coloring utensils.

## PRAYER

“God, thank you for today! Thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to save us and to be light in our lives. I pray that we share your light with others by telling them the GOOD NEWS and by being compassionate. We love you, amen.