



Preschool – April 7, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Jesus says to let my light shine.

Light of the World • *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: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (10 - 15 Minutes)

Spread Your Light

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Parachute or flat sheet and yellow pom-poms

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Spread the parachute out on the floor and place the pom-poms on top. Ask children to join you around the parachute.

During the Activity: Invite children to pick up the parachute and shake it slowly; then shake it faster and faster until all of the pom-poms bounce off. Repeat as desired.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends! Come find a spot around the parachute!"

During the Activity: "Everyone, pick up the parachute and hold it really still. Look at all the pretty yellow pom-poms on the parachute! They look like little lights. Let's pretend each of these pom-poms is a little light that shines brighter each time we shake the parachute. Let's start by shaking the parachute gently. *(Pause.)* Do you see the lights moving and shining bright? What happens if we shake the parachute faster? Let's give it a try. *(Pause.)* Whoa! The lights bounced really high and off the parachute! Lay the parachute on the ground, and let's work together to gather all the lights and toss them back onto the parachute. *(Pause.)* Great job! Shake slowly . . . then faster and faster! *(Repeat as desired.)* Awesome job!"

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story we're going to hear how you and you and you—*(point to all the children)* how each one of us—can be lights and shine bright when we are kind, when we share, when we forgive, and when we help each other. I can't wait to hear our story today!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by calling each child's name and encouraging child to jump up and twinkle their fingers like they are shining like a light. Repeat with each child as you move to your designated area.



Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Show Weekly Preschool Video (Worship / Bible Story)

Use the full mix of the monthly song provided with the curriculum to lead your preschoolers in worship. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

PRAY

Snack Fish crackers can be found in the Sunday school bin. Each child gets a glass of water and fish crackers (unless otherwise specified because of allergies) at the table."

LEADER: "Let's tell God thank you for our good food. Dear God, thank you for our good snack. We love You, God! Amen."

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (20 - 25 Minutes)

Shine Through the Shadow

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create: *An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft*

What You Need: White butcher paper, flashlight, crayons, a washable marker, and a chisel-tip permanent marker. *Optional: scissors*

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cover a table with butcher paper. Draw small hearts on the paper around the table, one for each child. In the center of the paper with the chisel-tip marker, write "Let your light shine."

Matthew 5:16

During the Activity: Ask children to hold one hand about 4"–5" above a heart on the table. Hold the flashlight over their hand to cast a shadow. Then trace the shadow with the washable marker. Encourage children to decorate their traced hand on the paper.

After the Activity: Review the Bible Story. Hang the butcher paper outside the room for display at pick-up. *Option: Cut out each child's hand and send home, if desired.*



What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends! Come sit at the table with me. I have a fun activity for us to do today.”

During the Activity: “Find a heart on the table and hold your hand over it like this. *(Demonstrate.)* I’m going to come around and shine a light on your hand to make a shadow. Look at the shadow your hand is making! Let me trace your hand on the paper. *(Pause.)* Now decorate your hand on the paper **with the crayons**. Okay, everyone hold your hand over the hearts again. *(Pause.)* Can you see the heart your hand is covering? *(Pause.)* No! That’s like our Bible Story today. Let’s review!”

After the Activity: “In our Bible Story today, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, ‘You are the light of the world.’ That means when you are kind to people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus is kind. When you forgive people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus forgives. When you share with people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus shares. When you help people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus helps. But if you hide your light, like when you covered the heart, you aren’t helping show people Jesus. Jesus says to 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.**”

Get Ready to Dismiss

Set any take-home creations where you or parents can get them easily. Greet parents at the door and tell them this month Preschoolers are learning that Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus wants to be my friend forever

Connect with parents as they arrive to pick up their children and send home any activities along with the memory verse card.