

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

I can shine my light by telling others that Jesus loves them.

OBJECTIVE:

Little ones will learn that, “When I tell people that Jesus loves them, I’m helping make their life brighter, like light in a dark room.”

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 5:13-16, The Sermon on the Mount Salt and Light

MEMORY VERSE:

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life.’” John 14:6b (NIRV)

SUMMARY:

During Jesus’ ministry, he preached and taught about how to live. He commanded people to be salty and to show light, meaning it’s our job to share the love of Jesus with those around us.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to shine our light brightly for You.

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life.’” John 14:6b (NIRV)

LARGE GROUP MV ACTIVITY: Teach the kids the verse, using the following hand motions: “Jesus answered, (point both hands up) ‘I am (thumbs to chest like you are pointing to yourself) the way (hold both arms straight in front of you like a path), and the truth (cup your hands around your mouth like you are speaking) and the life’ (hold both arms straight out to your sides). John 14:6 (open your hands like a book).”

SMALL GROUP MV ACTIVITY: Flip the light switch on and off in your classroom space. When the lights are on, kids will say the verse with you loudly. When the lights are off, they will say the verse softly. If you have a dimmer light, adjust it back and forth, having kids do the same with their voices. Say, “When the lights go out, say the verse quietly. When the lights go on, say the verse loudly.” Optional: If your classroom space is completely dark when the lights are out and/or too scary for kids, use a flashlight to practice instead. When the flashlight is on, they speak loudly. When the flashlight is off, they speak softly.

SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

TITLE: Remember When...The Lights Went Out

ITEMS NEEDED: Several boxes, photo albums, and several photographs including one of people playing a game

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M, 2F

CHARACTERS: Mom, Dad, and Audrey (their young daughter)

Mom, Dad, and Audrey will be sitting amongst the boxes and sorting through pictures.

MOM: I feel like we are making some progress.

DAD: Good thing because our move is going to be here before we know it.

AUDREY: It's been so fun to see old pictures as we pack up.

MOM: I agree. *Holds up a picture.* Oh, look at this one.

Dad and Audrey come over to look at the picture.

AUDREY: I remember this day!

DAD: It was just last spring.

AUDREY: We had that big thunderstorm, and the power went out at our house.

MOM: It was out for quite a while, a few hours if I remember correctly.

AUDREY: Yeah, we couldn't use the microwave or turn lights on to see in the bathroom. It was a crazy night!

DAD: But we still had a fun time. We lit candles and played games to keep ourselves occupied.

MOM: It was fun for a little while, but I was definitely glad when the power came back on.

DAD: Me too. We couldn't survive without light.

SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

AUDREY: Hey, I know two kinds of light we couldn't survive without.

MOM: Two?

AUDREY: Yep. The kind of lights we turn on in our house...and the light that comes from Jesus.

DAD: You are right about that! Jesus' light is the most important. He brought his light when he came to earth.

MOM: He even told people that they should be the light.

AUDREY: That means we should be light, right?

MOM: Yes, we can be a light to others when we tell them about Jesus.

AUDREY: I can do that!

DAD: We all should be lights to the world. There are so many people who don't know Jesus.

MOM: I have an idea. When we move, we will be meeting lots of new people in our new neighborhood. We can come up with ideas on how to shine our light brightly to all of our new neighbors.

DAD: Great idea!

AUDREY: I like it!

MOM: Now, let's keep working. These boxes aren't going to pack themselves!

The three continue sorting through pictures and looking in boxes.

SNACK

ITEMS NEEDED: Saltine crackers

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Post a sign outside the preschool area that says:
“Today’s snack is Saltine crackers. Please let your child’s teacher know if it is not ok for your child to have this snack.”

CONNECTION: Give each child some Saltine crackers. Say, “These crackers have a lot of flavor because there is salt on top of them. Salt is used to season and preserve. Jesus said that we should be salty by sharing his love with others. See if you can taste the salt as you eat your snack.”

CRAFT ACTIVITY

ITEMS NEEDED: Lantern Template, white paper, salt, Ziplock bags, food coloring, scissors, crayons, and glue

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Make colored salt by pouring some salt into a Ziplock bag. Add a few drops of food coloring. The more you use, the darker the color will be. Squeeze out all of the air from the bag and close it up. Mix up the salt and food coloring until the salt is saturated with color. Copy the Lantern Template onto white paper.

DIRECTIONS: Pass out the Lantern Template, crayons, and scissors. Have kids color or make designs on the Template, then fold it in half horizontally. By doing this, you can easily cut from the fold on each marked line, making slits into the paper. This will help form the lantern. When done cutting, unfold and have kids put a line of glue on each squiggly line. Then help them shake colored salt onto the glue. Shake off any excess over a trash can. Bring the left and right sides of the template together creating a cylinder shape. Glue these edges together to make a lantern. Say, "Today we learned that Jesus told people to be salt and light. We are going to use salt to decorate our lantern. A lantern is something that holds and shines light."

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

ITEMS NEEDED: Shallow totes and salt

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Pour salt into each tote, enough that it covers that bottom and makes a thin layer.

DIRECTIONS:

Put kids into groups of two or three. Have each group share a sensory salt tote. Encourage them to use their fingers to draw pictures or letters in the salt. Say, “Jesus taught us that we are to be salt. That means we can bring flavor to others by sharing about Jesus with them.”

MAIN LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

I can shine my light by telling others that Jesus loves them.

OBJECTIVE:

Little ones will learn that, “When I tell people that Jesus loves them, I’m helping make their life brighter, like light in a dark room.”

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 5:13-16, The Sermon on the Mount Salt and Light

WORSHIP TIME:

Prior to the lesson, sing one or two songs with the kids. Use CDs or live lyrics of songs that the kids are familiar with. “This Little Light of Mine” would be an appropriate song for this lesson.

LESSON:

You will need a saltshaker and a flashlight. We are going to talk about two things today, salt and light! *Show kids the saltshaker.* What is this? It’s salt. What do you use salt for? *Let kids respond.* Salt is in almost anything you cook. It gives flavor. *Show kids the flashlight.* What is this? What will happen when I push the on button? *Demonstrate.* Light is important. There are lights everywhere around us. The sun gives us light, and there are lights in our houses and buildings. Light shines so people can see. Salt and light are things you use every day. Jesus said salt and light were pretty important.

When Jesus had called his disciples, he began preaching and teaching to a lot of people. He wanted everyone to hear about God’s love. He explained things to people by using objects they would understand. Even a long time ago, the people knew about salt and light. Jesus called his followers the salt of the earth. We are to be people who go out and share his love. Just like real salt gives flavor, we can give flavor to those around us by telling them about Jesus. Jesus also said his followers are the light of the world. Lights aren’t meant to be hidden. If you cover up a light, it can’t do its job. Jesus wants us to shine our light for all to see. So many people need to know about God’s love. It’s our job to go out and tell others.

You can tell your family about God’s love. You can tell your friends about God’s love. You can tell your neighbors about God’s love. We can tell others with our words, but we can also show them by the way we treat others. When you do this, you are helping make their lives brighter.

MAIN LESSON

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to shine our light brightly for you.

Amen

MAIN LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WIGGLE TAMER: You will need music for this activity. When you play the music and keep the lights on, kids should run and dance around the room. When you pause the music and turn the lights off, they should freeze. Repeat several times. Say, “Jesus told us to be light. Our lights can shine brightly to everyone around us. When the light is on, move around. When the light goes off, freeze.”

SMALL GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Flip the light switch on and off in your classroom space. When the lights are on, kids will say the verse with you loudly. When the lights are off, they will say the verse softly. If you have a dimmer light, adjust it back and forth, having kids do the same with their voices. Say, “When the lights go out, say the verse quietly. When the lights go on, say the verse loudly.” Optional: If your classroom space is completely dark when the lights are out and/or too scary for kids, use a flashlight to practice instead. When the flashlight is on, they speak loudly. When the flashlight is off, they speak softly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What does salt do?

How can you be salt?

What does light do?

How can you be light?

SMALL GROUP GAME OR ACTIVITY: You will need a flashlight for this game. Play a game of freeze tag. Choose one person to be the freezer. When they tag someone, that person has to sit down. Choose another person to be the light. They will hold a flashlight and shine it on anyone who has been frozen. This will unfreeze them and allow them back into the game. Switch out the freezer and the light often. Say, “Let’s play a game of tag. If you get tagged, you have to sit down until the flashlight shines on you.”

SPECIAL 1 PAGE LESSON FOR 1 & 2 YEAR OLDS

PLAY TIME: Spend the first 15 minutes on the floor playing with the kids. Cars, dolls, blocks, and simple puzzles are great for this time.

BIBLE TIME: Seat the kids in the place they will be having snack. Hold up a Bible or Children's Bible, and say, "This is the Bible. It is God's true words. Today we are learning about how to be a light for Jesus."

LESSON:

We are learning all about Jesus, God's Son. After he chose his special friends, the disciples, Jesus started teaching people everywhere he went. He preached about how to love God and how to live life. He told people that they are the salt and light of the earth. Being salty helps things stay good. Shining light helps bring truth. When we love Jesus, it's our job to do these things too. Everyone needs to know about Jesus and how he came to save us. When we choose to love Jesus, we want to do what he says. We can live our lives by sharing the light and love of Jesus to everyone around us.

When we tell people about Jesus, we are helping make their lives brighter.

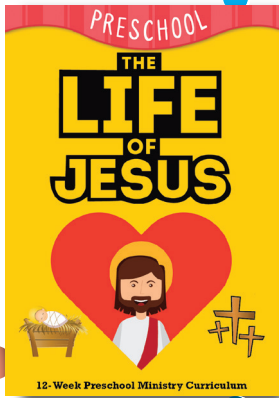
MAKE IT REAL: After the lesson say, "I can shine for Jesus." Then point to each child and say, "(Insert child's name) can shine for Jesus."

LARGE GROUP MV ACTIVITY: Teach the kids the verse, using the following hand motions: "Jesus answered, (point both hands up) 'I am (thumbs to chest like you are pointing to yourself) the way (hold both arms straight in front of you like a path), and the truth (cup your hands around your mouth like you are speaking) and the life' (hold both arms straight out to your sides). John 14:6 (open your hands like a book)."

PRAYER TIME: Ask the children to fold their hands and bow their heads. Say, "Let's pray before our snack. Thank you, God, for our mommies and our daddies. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for this snack we get to eat. Amen."

SNACK TIME: Wash each child's hand with a wet wipe and then serve the snack. At this age crackers or goldfish with water are generally best, but you always want to be mindful of any food allergies.

POTTY BREAK: After snack is a great time to ask those who are potty trained if they need to use the bathroom or change diapers of those who are not yet potty trained.



MAKE IT STICK

4 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

The Life of Jesus PreK Lesson 6

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JESUS PREACHED



IN THE CAR:

As you're driving at night, point out to your child that you have to turn your headlights on so you can see. Remind them that Jesus wants us to be a light so we can help others see him.



HANGING OUT:

Pretend play restaurant or kitchen. Have kids pretend to make you a meal. Tell them to be sure to add salt to give the food flavor. Remind kids that as Christians, we are salt, sharing the love of Jesus with others.



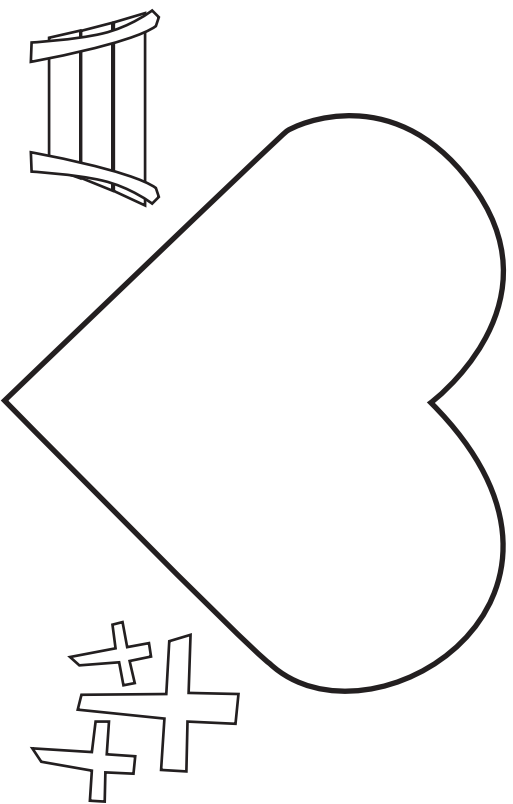
AT DINNER:

Before you eat your meals, pray together, asking God to help you shine your light and tell others about Jesus.



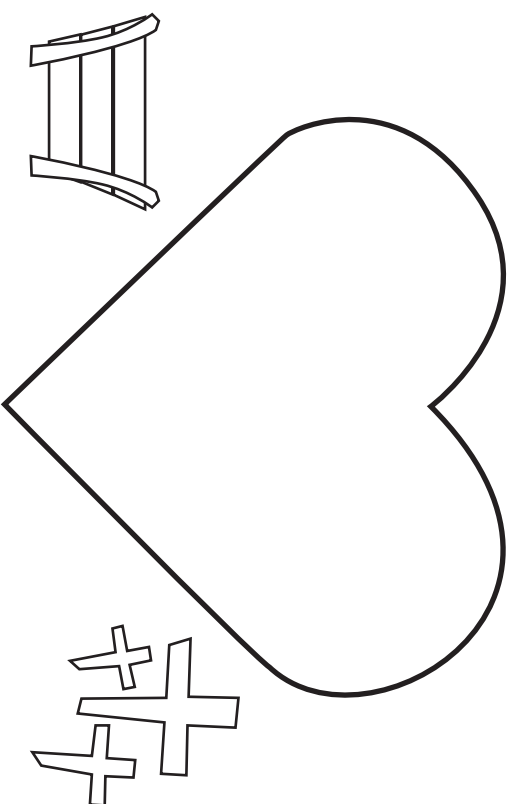
AT BEDTIME:

Cuddle up with your little ones and read Matthew 5:13-16 together. This passage is when Jesus told his followers to be salt and light. Discuss with your preschooler how they can be salt and light in their world.



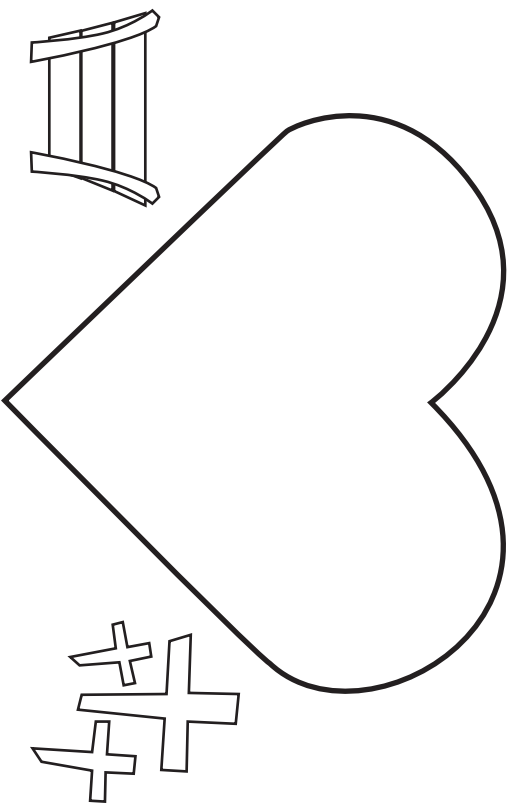
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- John 14:6b (NIRV)



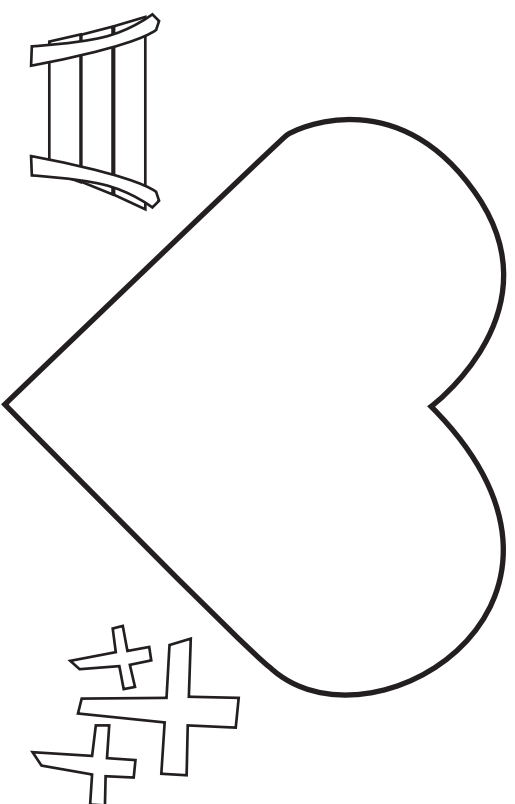
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