

April 28, 2024

Today's Bible Story: I shine when I do what Jesus says.

Shine Like the Stars • *Philippians 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.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

During the Activity: Guide the children as they take turns "fishing" for the story pictures. After all the fish have been caught, sit with the children and put the story pictures in order as they happened. Put the fish back in the basket and play again!

You're a Star

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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: "You're a Star" Activity Page, cardstock, washable markers or dot markers, metallic or glitter crayons, star stickers, star stamps, yellow washable ink pads, yellow tissue squares, glue sticks, scissors, craft sticks, masking tape, and a permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "You're a Star" on cardstock and cut one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to use the supplies to decorate the side of their star with no writing and make it shine. Help attach the star to the craft stick and encourage children to use their star as you review the Bottom Line.

After the Activity: Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit at the table with me. Today, we heard how we can shine like the stars. Let's make our very own beautiful star to help us remember that we shine when we do what Jesus says."

During the Activity: "Look at all these fun supplies I have for you to use! Decorate the side with no words on it. (Pause.) Wow! Your stars are amazing! And they are all so wonderfully different! Turn it over and let's add a craft stick so it's easier for you to hold. (Help tape the craft stick to the back of each child's star.) When I say shine, I want you to hold your stars way up high. Ready? Shine! (Pause.) Look around at all these bright stars! Stars down. This time, when I say your name, hold up your star and say a kind word, like, 'Please,' 'Thank you,' or 'I love you.' [Child's name], hold up your

star and say a kind word. *(Pause.)* Nice! Put your star down. *(Continue with each child.)* When we do what Jesus says, we shine like the stars!"

After the Activity: **"Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.** Now you can take your stars home, do what Jesus says, and shine like the stars with your family! Tell me one more time, **who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says."**

Journal and Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, a fun-shaped pen, and stickers or a handstamp

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 5:2. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

During the Activity: Lead the children to twinkle their fingers like stars as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions; then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of their own names, because they can do what Jesus says and shine like stars.

After the activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are twinkling stars while we walk to our Small Group spot. Twinkle your fingers like this *(demonstrate)* and follow me! *(Twinkle your fingers in the air as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)* Here we are, twinkling stars. It's time to sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

During the Activity: *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)* "In our Bible Story today, we learned that one way we can shine our light like Jesus says is by not complaining and arguing. When we do things without complaining and arguing, we shine like the...do you remember what we shine like? *(Pause.)* Yes! Stars! I have one question for you. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** Yes, you can!

"And the Bible verse we have been learning will help us remember that Jesus says, '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.)* Stand up with me and let's say Jesus' words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. '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.)* You sound ready to try and say it by yourself! Let's sit down and take turns doing that. I have my stickers ready! *(Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)*

"Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is your sticker! *(Say this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.)* I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your sticker/handstamp. One, two, three! *(Pause to look.)* Yay! *(Clap.)* Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Open journal.)*

"Today, when I say your name, stand up and say, **[Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** Then I will write your name in our journal. Can [child's name] do what Jesus says? *(Child stands and says the Bottom Line.)* Can [child's name] do what Jesus says? *(Continue with each child as you write their name in the journal.)* Great job, everyone!" *(Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

After the activity: "I wrote all your names in our prayer journal! *(Hold up journal.)* Now let's pray for each other. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us how to shine our light. [Child's name] wants to do what Jesus says. [Child's name] wants to do what Jesus says. *(Continue with each child.)* Please help us do everything without complaining and arguing so we can shine like the stars and people can see that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever, too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."