

**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.

### **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!

### **Flashlight Viewfinder**

**[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:** "Flashlight Viewfinder" Activity Page, cardstock, washable markers, metal brads, scissors, and a permanent marker

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Flashlight Viewfinder" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Write each child's name on their flashlight cutout.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to color the "beam" of their flashlight yellow and the flashlight any color they desire. Put the two pieces together with a brad and demonstrate how to make the pictures change through the viewfinder.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come over and sit at the table with me. Let's make a special flashlight that will help us remember our Bible Story today."

*During the Activity:* "See this part of your flashlight picture? (*Point to the beam.*) This is the light, so color this part yellow. (*Pause.*) Now pick any color to fill in the rest of your flashlight. (*Pause.*) Great job!"

"See how your flashlights have this hole? (*Point to the hole in the flashlight beam.*) We are going to add some pictures to the back. (*Attach the picture wheel to the back of each child's flashlight with the brad.*) Move the flashlight to see the different ways you can shine your light." (*Demonstrate.*)

*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, (*move the flashlight to reveal the 'kind' picture*) 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 (*move the flashlight to reveal the 'share' picture*), you shine your light so people can see that Jesus shares. When you help people (*move the flashlight to reveal the 'help' picture*), you shine your light so people can see that Jesus helps. When we do what Jesus says, we 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.**"

## 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, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Matthew 5:16. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to hold up one pointer finger, like a candle, as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions, and then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of places we can let our light shine.

*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 our finger is a light (*hold up pointer finger*), like a candle, while we walk to our Small Group spot. Everyone, hold up your light and follow me! (*Hold up your pointer finger like a candle as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! You can put your hands down. Now let's 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, Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world.' Do you remember how we can be the light of the world? (*Pause.*) When we do what Jesus says, we shine like a light so other people can see that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever! That means **[Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says** and shine, and you can do what Jesus says and shine! So when I ask you 'Who can do what Jesus says?' I want everyone to say, **[Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says! Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** And when we do what Jesus says, we shine!

"Now it's time to start learning a new Bible verse. In this Bible verse, 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.*)

"Wow! (*Clap.*) You sound so good! I love saying Jesus' words together! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we are going to make a list of places where we can shine our light. And since Jesus said we are the light of the WORLD, we can shine everywhere in the world! When I say your name, tell me one place you can shine, and I will

write it in our journal. (*Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

*After the Activity:* "This is such a great list! Let's use it when we pray. 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 be the light of the world. Help us do what Jesus says so we can let our light shine too. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."