



## WEEK ONE – APRIL 2024 – PRESCHOOL

**Bible Story:** *Light of the World | Matthew 5:1-2, 14-16*

**Key Question:** *Who can do what Jesus says?*

**Bottom Line:** *I can do what Jesus says.*

**Memory Verse:** *“Let your light shine.” Matthew 5:16 NIV*

**Basic Truth:** *Jesus wants to be my friend forever.*

**Series Overview:** This month, we’re talking about light, but not just any light. We’re talking about Jesus—the light of the world—and how when we do what Jesus says, we shine. We shine the light of Jesus! After this month, we hope every time you and your preschoolers see a lamp or a star-filled sky, you remember that people were made to shine, and we have Jesus—the light of the world—to show us how. So let’s not hide our light. Let’s SHINE and light up the dark so others can see their way to Jesus.

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## 9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### Opening Small Group Activity

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

**What You Need:** “Jump + Shine” Activity Page

### What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Gather children around your circle
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - Ask a child to choose a card to discover what movement to do.
  - Name the movement and encourage the child to model the movement for the other children.
  - Encourage all the children to do the movement.
  - Continue the activity until each child has a turn to pick a card and lead a movement.
  - Repeat as desired.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Introduce the Bible story for today

### What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Friends, gather with me. I have a fun game for us to play together.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “I have cards here with different movements on them. Everyone will have a chance to draw a card and show us the movement on your card. [Child’s name], choose a card. *(Pause.)* Your card says to [movement]. Show us how to [movement] and we’ll do what you do. *(Pause.)* Great job. Now it’s [child’s name]’s turn. *(Continue with each child and repeat as desired.)* Wow! You did a great job doing what the cards said.”

- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Today we are going to hear a Bible Story about doing what Jesus says! I can’t wait to hear it!”
- *TRANSITION*
  - Move to Worship and Story by jumping, clapping, or re-creating whatever the favorite movement was.

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**9:20 - 9:50 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP**

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**Story Focus: Jesus wants to be friends with everyone everywhere.** The woman at the well had made wrong choices and those choices left her walking to a well, all alone, in the middle of the day. Top that with the fact that she was from a town where the people were not friends with the people in the town Jesus was from. So the woman was shocked when Jesus asked her for a drink of water. But soon, everything changed, because Jesus told her that He is God’s Son. Jesus wanted to be her friend forever because Jesus wants to be EVERYONE’s friend forever.

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**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 – SMALL GROUP**

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**Memory Verse With Motions**

**[Hear From God | Memory Verse Review]**

*Move: an activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*

- Repeat the verse with the motions and invite the children to do it with you
- Repeat several times
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Review the Bottom Line

### What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Friends, join me over here. We have a brand-new memory verse and motions to learn! Everyone, listen and watch me. 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.*) Great job!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Now let’s do it together! Are you ready? ‘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.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again.” (*Repeat several times.*)
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Our Memory Verse teaches us that when we do what Jesus says, we let our light shine. 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.** Let’s say that one more time, friends. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.**”

### Journal + Prayer

#### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application*

**What You Need:** “Memory Verse Card” Activity Page; Bible; journal

### What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Place “Memory Verse Card” in Bible at Matthew 5:16
    - 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*
  - “Now we can 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.”*