



WEEK TWO – APRIL 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *The Great Commission | Matthew 28:18-20*

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.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Yellow Play-Doh[®], yellow straws (paper or plastic), scissors, small bowls, and small paper plates

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Gather children around your circle
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Encourage the children to roll and shape their Play-Doh[®] into a circle or dome. Ask children to stick straw pieces into it to create a sun and its rays.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Introduce the Bible story for today

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, come find a spot at the circle. Look at all this fun, bright Play-Doh[®] we get to play with today!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “What did God make that lives in the sky and shines bright? (*Pause.*) The sun! That’s right! Let’s make a sun with our Play-Doh[®]! Roll and shape it into a circle or dome like this. (*Demonstrate.*) And then, we need to add some rays. Let’s use these pieces of straw for the rays. Place these all around your sun. (*Pause.*) Everyone made bright, beautiful suns! Great job!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*

- “The Sun shines brightly to keep us warm and help things grow. In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about how we can shine our lights when we do what Jesus says! Come with me.”
- *TRANSITION*
 - Move to Worship and Story by pretending to shine like the Sun. Encourage children to raise their arms high overhead and “shine” like the rays of the Sun.

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

Story Focus: Jesus says to tell others about Him. Jesus gives His friends an important job to do—to go and tell everyone everywhere that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever—and we can do that job too! When we go and tell everyone everywhere that Jesus wants to be their friend forever, we are doing what Jesus says and shining our light.

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

Mail All Over The World

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Mail All Over the World” and “Ollie Stickers” Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® Labels #6450 or equivalent, washable markers, and scissors

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Set the postcards and markers out in your circle
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Give each child a postcard.

- Point to where the Bottom Line is written and say it out loud.
- Encourage children to decorate their postcards as you walk around the table and ask each child to name a friend they want to send this message to.
- Write that name above the Bottom Line.
- Ask children to place an “Ollie Sticker” in the spot where a stamp would go.
- Put aside to send home.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Review the Bottom Line

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, have you ever received a postcard in the mail? Did you know you can mail postcards all over the world? It’s true! Right here on our postcard, it says, (*point*) [**Bottom Line**] **‘I can do what Jesus says.’** We can use these postcards to tell others that Jesus wants to be their friend forever! Because Jesus says to tell others about Him!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Use the markers to decorate your postcards. Do you have a friend you’d like to send this postcard to? Tell me your friend’s name when I come around the table, and I’ll write it on your card. We also need to add a special Ollie sticker right here where the stamp would go. You can add that to your postcard. (*Pause.*) Yay! Your postcards look great.”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Jesus says to tell others about Him! We can do what Jesus says. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** One more time: **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*
 - 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 people we can go and tell about Jesus.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “One, two, three, let’s gather around with me!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - *“In our Bible Story today, Jesus said to go and tell everyone everywhere that Jesus is alive and Jesus wants to be their friend forever. You can skip to go and tell. You can run to go and tell. You can even hop to go and tell! The important thing is to do what Jesus says. And: **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says! That’s right! And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light, which is what Jesus says for us to do in the Bible verse we are learning. It 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 and say Jesus’ words with me! 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.) Yay! (Clap.) Now it’s time to write in our prayer journal and talk to God, so let’s sit down. (Open journal.) Today, we’re going to make a list of***

people we can go and tell about Jesus. When I say your name, tell me the name of one person, 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**

- *“Look at all of these people! (Hold up journal.) Let’s use our list 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, You are the BEST! Thank You for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. Help us to go and tell (read the list the children made) that Jesus is alive and He wants to be their friend forever. We want to do what Jesus says and shine our light! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”*