



WEEK THREE – APRIL 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Early Church | Acts 2:42-47; John 15:12; Hebrews 10:24*

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: “Jars” and “Jar Pictures” Activity Pages, copy paper, tap lights or flashlights, glue sticks, and scissors

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Gather children around your circle and place the cutouts and the lights around the circle
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Encourage children to pick a jar and hold it in front of the light to reveal the image.
 - Talk about how the image is hard to see without the light shining on it.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Introduce the Bible story for today

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Hello, everyone! It’s so nice to see you today! Come explore with me in the circle.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Look at all these little jars. Do you see anything in them? *(Pause.)* What if you hold the jar up to the light? *(Pause.)* Wow! There is something in the jar! What do you see in this jar? *(Pause.)* Pick another jar and hold it to the light. *(Repeat as desired.)* When we used the lights, we were able to see so many neat pictures.”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*

- “Today, we’re going to hear a story about how we can love like Jesus and shine our light for others to see.”
- *TRANSITION*
 - Move to Worship and Story by having the leader shine the way with the tap light or flashlight.

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

Story Focus: Jesus says to love like Him. Jesus tells his friends to love people the way He loves them. So the early church did what Jesus says and loved like Jesus! If someone needed a coat, a person would share their coat. If someone needed a place to stay, a person would share their home. If someone needed food, a person would share their food. The early church ate and talked and prayed together. They loved each other because Jesus loved them. Just like the early church, we can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus.

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

Pour the Light

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Yellow ball pit ball + small Solo cups

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Gather the children in a circle. Give them each a cup.
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*

- Put the yellow ball pit ball on your cup and demonstrate how to “pour” the ball from your cup to the next child’s cup.
- Encourage them to keep going until the ball makes it around the circle.
- Continue as long as there is interest.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Review the Bottom Line

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, let’s gather in a circle and play a game. Everyone needs one of these cups.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “We’ve been talking about shining and being the light of Jesus. We can shine when we do what Jesus says. Let’s take this light (*hold up ball*) and pour it into each other’s cups. I’ll show you how. (*Demonstrate.*) Keep it going around the circle. Great job keeping the light going around the circle!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “When we do what Jesus says and love others, we shine like a light for all our friends to see. We can love like Jesus by sharing when someone needs something. We can love like Jesus when we pray and praise God together with our friends. We can all do what Jesus says. **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 ways we can love like 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, people did what Jesus said and loved like Jesus by eating together, helping each other, sharing with each other, and praying together, because they wanted to do what Jesus says and love like Jesus. We can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus too! **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light! The Bible verse we’ve been learning will help us remember to shine our light. 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.) Jesus said those words! 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.) Way to go! (Clap.) Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.) Today, we’re going to make a list of ways we can love like Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus, 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*

- *“These are wonderful ways we can love like Jesus. And when we love like Jesus, we SHINE! 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, thank You for loving us so much You gave us Your Son, Jesus, to show us how to love and to be our friend forever. Please help us to do what Jesus says and love others the way Jesus loves us. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”*