



WEEK FOUR – APRIL 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Shine Like The Stars | 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: Shape sorter blocks (including a heart and star), butcher paper, washable markers, and masking tape

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Layout the butcher paper and secure the edges with the masking tape.
 - Lay out the shape-sorter blocks on the butcher paper and use washable markers to trace each shape.
 - Make sure you trace a heart and a star.
 - Trace at least one item per child. P
 - Place the shape sorter blocks around your circle
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Point out the drawn shapes on the butcher paper and lead children to sort through the blocks to find the matching shape.
 - Once all shapes have been matched, lead them to point to the star and the heart.
- *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 shapes on the paper! What shapes do you see? (*Pause.*) Great job! Look, these blocks are the same shapes as the drawings on the paper! Let’s match a block with its shape! You can

set the block right on top. Ready? Let’s match! You found the circle! Great job. Does anyone see a heart? Oh, there it is. Way to go! What about a star? Yep. There it is! Keep going until we’ve made all the matches. *(Pause.)* Great job, friends! You matched up all the shapes! Everyone, point to the heart! Great. Now point to the star! *(Pause.)* Super-duper!”

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
 - “In our Bible Story today, we’ll learn how we can love others and shine like stars. Let’s go!”
- **TRANSITION**
 - Move to Worship and Story by calling out, “Heart!” or “Star!” as the children travel. When you say, “Star!” lead the children to make twinkle fingers. When you say, “Heart!” lead the children to put their hands together to make a heart outline.

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

Story Focus: I shine when I do what Jesus says. The Bible teaches us that when we do what Jesus says—like when we don’t argue or complain—we will shine like stars! There will be people around us who complain or argue, but we can choose to do what Jesus says with a happy heart. Then we will shine like the stars in the sky.

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

Ways to Shine Brainstorm

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Butcher paper + a marker

What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - Write “Ways to Shine” across the top of the butcher paper and lay it in the center of the circle
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - Ask the children to list different ways they can shine by doing what Jesus says.
 - Write children’s answers in large block letters on the paper. Give prompts as needed if children get stuck (help, share toys, choose to be kind, give a hug or high five, etc.).
 - After you’ve filled the page, point each one out as you review the answers.
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - Review the Bottom Line

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Friends, let’s gather in a circle and look at this paper!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “We’ve been learning that when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light. Can you name some ways you can shine your light? Raise your hands and I’ll call on you one at a time and write down your answers. I’ll get us started. We can shine our lights by being kind! [Child’s name], how can you shine your light? (*Pause.*) Great answer! (*Write their answer.*) [Child’s name], how can you shine your light? (*Continue with each child.*) What an awesome list! We shine our light by (*read answers from the list.*)”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “These are all ways we can shine our lights by doing 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 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*
 - *“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*
 - *“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."