



## WEEK ONE – SEPTEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Lights Up | Matthew 5:14-16*

**Bottom Line:** *You can shine God's light*

**Memory Verse:** *“Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.”. – Matt. 5:14-16 (Nlrv)*

**Virtue:** *Compassion – Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs*

**Basic Truth:** *I should treat others the way I want to be treated*

**Series Overview:** Think back to a time when someone made time for you. Maybe that looked like caring for you when you were sick, or teaching you how to tie your shoe, making food for you, or teaching you how to read or learn a new skill. No matter what it is, when people make time for us, it can bring us joy. It's like a light shining on a dark day. Caring for one another isn't always the easy thing to do, but it certainly is what Jesus asks of us. When Jesus gave the command in Matthew 5 to let our light shine, it wasn't just to bring joy into each other's lives, but also to bring glory to God. We are reflections of Who God is, and as we “Live Bright” this month, we'll discover exactly how we can shine God's light.

**Bottom Line:** **You can shine God's light.** God didn't give us light so that it could be hidden. God gave us light so that we could shine brightly . . . and so that the world could see Who God is. When we look around and identify those who could use some light in their lives—and then do something about it—we reflect God's light.

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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 increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Flashlight

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Direct the kids to gather in the center of your group space.
- Hold the flashlight and shine it on a wall.
  - If wall space is not possible, shine the flashlight on the floor instead.
- Instruct the kids that when you say “Shine,” to run to touch the light with their hands, then run back to the center of your group space.
- Play a few rounds, changing the position of the light each time.
- *Optional: Allow kids to take turns controlling the flashlight.*

**What You Say:**

““Wow, that was fun! You did a great job chasing the light! *[Transition]* Let’s go to Large Group to discover Who is called ‘the Light of the world,’ and what that means for us.”

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

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**Large Group Overview:** We start the month in Matthew 5:14-16 with the Sermon on the Mount. In this passage, Jesus announced to the crowd, “You are the light of the world.” Each of us can shine God’s light to the world around us. When we shine our light by living God’s way, we bring glory to God and show people what God is like.

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

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**Don't Hide It**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Cup

**What You Do:**

- T Instruct the kids to form a standing circle.
- Choose one kid to be “It.”
- Give the kid who is “It” a paper cup.
- Instruct the rest of the group to stand with their right elbow bent and their index finger pointing upward at shoulder height.
- Inform kids that the finger pointing up is their “light!”
- Direct the kid who is “It” to walk around the outside of the circle a few times and randomly place the cup over one of the kids’ fingers.
- Instruct the “tagged” kid to shout, “No!,” remove the cup, and chase the kid who is “It” around the circle.
  - If the kid who is “It” gets to the empty space without being tagged, invite the chaser to become the kid who is “It.”
  - If the kid who is “It” gets tagged, instruct them to remain “It,” and start the game over.

**What You Say:**

*“Jesus said, ‘You are the light of the world’ (Matthew 5:14, NIrV). When someone tried to cover your light during our game today, you worked hard to make sure it could still shine. It’s not always easy to shine Jesus’ light, though. For example, when someone constantly irritates you or is unkind, it’s not easy to shine Jesus’ light! Or maybe when you feel hurt or left out, it’s not easy then either. Can you*

*think of other situations it might be a challenge to let our lights shine? (Invite responses.)*

*“It’s important to remember that you can ask God for help in understanding what others need and how you can shine to help them. Being a light doesn’t mean being perfect. **[Bottom Line] You can shine God’s light** by doing simple things. When you forgive others, you shine your light to show that Jesus forgives. When you share with others, you shine your light to show that Jesus shares. When you help others, you shine your light to show that Jesus helps. When we follow Jesus’ teachings, we shine our light to demonstrate that Jesus loves everyone and desires a relationship with them.”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Describe a time when you did simple things for someone that allowed them to experience Jesus’ light through you. What did you do? Maybe you wrote a card when they were discouraged. Maybe you listened when they were sad. Maybe you helped them by doing something for them. How did they feel?)*

## **Pray + Dismiss**

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

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

## **What You Need: Cups**

### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid a large, plastic disposable cup.
- Instruct kids to work together as a group to stack their cups in the center of your group space, pyramid style, to represent a city on a hill.
- Provide additional cups for stacking, as needed.
- Ask: “Where is a place where you would like to shine for Jesus?” (*For example: school, home, sports fields, dance class, etc.*)
- Close the group time with prayer.

**What You Say:**

*“Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be the Light of the world. Help us to shine brightly like a city on a hill for Jesus everywhere we go, like [names of places kids named during the activity]. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*