



WEEK ONE – SEPTEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Light Source Bingo Card” Activity Page; little scraps

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Give each kid a “Light Source Bingo Card” Activity Page and about twenty scraps of paper to use as markers.
 - Refer to the footer at the bottom of each Bingo card to ensure that all five versions of the card are given out in the group.
- Point out and talk through each of the different light sources on the card. (There are eight light sources that are repeated three times each on each card.)
- Encourage the kids to use a paper scrap to cover the free space in the center of their cards.
- Explain that you will call out a letter (L, I, G, H, or T) and a light source (lightbulb, flashlight, candle, lamp, the sun, fire, a lightning bolt, or stars).
- Instruct the kids that if they find that light source in the correct column to cover it with a paper scrap.
- Direct the first kid to cover five spaces in a row either diagonally, vertically, or horizontally to call out “LIGHT!” (instead of “Bingo!”).
- Declare the kid who calls out “Light!” to be the winner of that round.
- Allow kids to switch cards with a neighbor if they choose and play again.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

What You Say:

““That was fun! There are so many different sources of light! *[Transition]* Today, we’ll hear about another light source, maybe one you have not thought of. Let’s find out who is the very best Light of the world.

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

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.

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

Places to Shine

[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: “Places to Shine” Activity Pages, and wall tape

What You Do:

- Tape the four “Places to Shine” Activity Pages on four different spots on the wall(s) or on the floor around your group area.
- Instruct the kids to gather in the center of your group area.
- One at a time, describe a place using the dialogue below.
- Encourage the kids to run to the picture that matches your description.
- When the kids arrive at that picture, lead a discussion about how they can shine at that place by asking the discussion questions below each description.
 - Repeat with the remaining places.
- Descriptions:
 - This is the place where you learn. (*school*)

- How can we shine and reflect Jesus’ light? What are some ways we can show compassion at school? *(Examples: help the teacher clean up, listen to a friend who’s sad, let a friend go first, etc.)*
- This is a place where you live. *(home)*
 - How can you shine and reflect Jesus’ light with the people in your family? What are some ways we can show compassion at home? *(Examples: let your little brother or sister play with your toys, listen to your grown-up when they ask for help with something, etc.)*
- This is a place where you play outside. *(playground)*
 - How can we shine and reflect Jesus’ light? What are some ways we can show compassion at the playground? *(Examples: help someone who has fallen down, let someone else have the swing, listen when your grown-up says it’s time to leave, etc.)*
- This is a place where you buy groceries. *(grocery store)*
 - How can we shine and reflect Jesus’ light? What are some ways we can show compassion at the grocery store? *(Examples: help your grown-up carry the groceries, be patient while your grown-up is shopping, etc.)*

What You Say:

“Amazing job, friends! What other places do you sometimes go? (Invite responses.) How can we shine and reflect Jesus’ light there? How can you show compassion at [place kids named]? (Invite responses.)

*“There are so many places you go and so many people you see each day and SO many ways **[Bottom Line]** you can shine God’s light.”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to pray by repeating the prayer below.

What You Say:

“There are so many places and so many ways you can shine God’s light this week. Let’s pray a repeat prayer. I’ll pray a line and then you repeat it after me. Let’s pray.”

*“Dear God,
(Pause for kids to repeat.)*

*“Thank You for sending Jesus.
(Pause for kids to repeat.)*

*“Help us to shine Your light
(Pause for kids to repeat.)*

*“everywhere we go.
(Pause for kids to repeat.)*

*“In Jesus’ name, amen.”
(Pause for kids to repeat.)*