



## WEEK FIVE – SEPTEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *I Saw The Light | John 8:12*

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus is the light of the world.*

**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 (NIV)*

**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. 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:** **Jesus is the light of the world.** Sometimes it’s hard to see past our current circumstances. When darkness surrounds us, how do we move forward? We take time to remember that Jesus came to be the light of the world. Jesus’ light shines so bright that darkness cannot overcome it. When Jesus died on the cross, He showed the ultimate example of compassion towards us.

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

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### Opening Small Group Activity

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** “Who” Activity Page, index cards, pens or pencils

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Give each kid an index card and a pen or pencil.
- Instruct the kids to write the following four people on their index card, leaving space between each one:
  - 1. Parent
  - 2. Friend
  - 3. Sibling or neighbor
  - 4. Small Group Leader
- Direct the kids to choose a partner.
- Instruct the pairs to stand back-to-back.
- Position the pairs of the group so that one partner from each pair is facing you.
- Explain that you will read a scenario out loud.
- Kids will respond to what you share using the index card they wrote on.
  - Instruct the kids facing you to choose who they would share that scenario with by silently pointing to the answer on their index card.
  - Direct the kids who aren't facing you to guess who their partner would choose by pointing to the answer on *their* index card.
- One at a time, read a scenario from the “Who” Activity Page.
- Once the kids have made their choices after each scenario, encourage the kids to face each other and reveal their answers.
- Award partners with matching answers one point.

- Direct the kids to switch roles, read the next scenario for another round, and repeat for each of the scenarios.

**What You Say:**

*“When something amazing happens, it’s natural to want to share it with the people we care about and love! [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and hear about something that is amazing and true that we should be super-excited to share with everyone!”*

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

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**Large Group Overview:** We wrap up the month in John 8:12, where Jesus said to the people, “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.” Because of Jesus, we never have to go through life alone. Jesus brings light to guide us and help us grow. And, of course, the light of Jesus meets our greatest need. When we turn away from our sins and choose to follow Jesus, it’s as if He shines a bright light into our hearts and our lives.

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

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**Flash Trivia**

**[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** Prepared “Trivia Questions” Activity Page, “Trivia Answers” Activity Page, wall tape, flashlight, and timer

**What You Do:**

- Point out the prepared wall (or poster board) of cards from the “Trivia Questions” Activity Page.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Instruct both teams to gather with their teammates—leaving some space between them and the trivia questions.
- Place a flashlight in the center of the room.
- Instruct the teams to take turns selecting a kid to shine the flashlight on one question.
- Inform the team that shines the light on a question that they have 30 seconds to discuss and answer that question.
  - If the team answers correctly (see the “Trivia Answers” Activity Page for correct answers), award a point for their team.
  - If the team answers incorrectly, invite the other team to answer the question and steal the point.
- *Optional: Dim the room lights.*
- Choose one team to go first.
- Ask that team to send one kid to the middle to use the flashlight to shine on a trivia question.
- Read the question out loud to the group, then start the timer for 30 seconds.
- After the 30 seconds, ask the team to share their answer.
- Award a point if the team answers correctly, or bounce the question to the other team.
- Remove the question before playing the next round.
  - If neither team answers a question correctly, review the correct answer using the “Trivia Answers” Activity Page.
- Repeat, alternating with each team.
- Once all of the questions have been selected, celebrate the team with the most points at the end as the winner. (Or celebrate both teams if there’s a tie.)

**What You Say:**

*“We all mess up sometimes. We do things that hurt others and hurt our relationship with God. Here’s the amazing part: Jesus came to rescue us from that*

*darkness. That's because [Bottom Line] Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is the bright light that shines to show us Who God is. When we turn away from wrong things and choose to follow Jesus, we can see the path to God's love and forgiveness. Jesus meets our greatest need by bringing us back into a close relationship with God. When we choose to follow Jesus, we can live with God forever!"*

## **Shine Bright**

### **[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Light of the World” Activity Page, and highlighters

### **What You Do:**

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse, Matthew 5:16, using the Bible Navigation Tips below:
  - **Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Matthew in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Matthew, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Matthew. Help the kids find the page. When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 5.
- Invite any kids who would like to read the verse out loud to the group or recite it from memory.
- Give each kid a “Light of the World” Activity Page.
- Set out the highlighters.

- Instruct the kids to trace over the verse and color/decorate the verse using highlighters.
- As kids are decorating, invite them to brainstorm ways they can practice being a bright light to the people around them.
  - Here are some examples:
    - making time to help others with a task
    - using their skills/talents to meet someone's need
    - being present with someone who needs comfort, etc.

### **What You Say:**

*“Let’s read the verse from your beautiful and bright ‘Light of the World’ Activity Pages together! (Invite kids to read the verse together.) When Jesus was born, God’s people were still waiting for that light. Many thought a king would come to defeat enemies, but Jesus came as a baby and grew up as a humble carpenter. As He began to travel and teach, He shined God’s light in a different way. Some religious leaders didn’t like this and challenged Him. But Jesus didn’t back down. He said, ‘I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life’ (John 8:12, NIV). (Or: ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ John 8:12, NIV)*

*“Jesus was saying He is God’s Rescuer, sent to bring light to a dark world. If we know Jesus, we can practice this verse and be His light by showing others who Jesus is through our words and actions. Remember: **[Bottom Line] Jesus is the light of the world.**”*