



WEEK FIVE – SEPTEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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 (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. 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.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Rainbow scratch paper; toothpicks

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite kids to share any stories about the brightest light they've ever seen.
- When enough kids have arrived, give each kid a rainbow scratch paper and a toothpick (or other drawing/scratch tool).
- Encourage kids to use their tool to scratch the paper in any pattern or design they want.
- As kids finish, invite them to share their designs with the group.
- Encourage kids to ask each other questions or offer compliments each time someone shares.

What You Say:

“These light and color combinations are so pretty! [Transition] Today, we’ll hear about the Source of all light.”

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

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.

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

Turn on the Light

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Light Switch Covers” Activity Page, and markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a light switch cutout from the “Light Switch Covers” Activity Page.
- Read the sentence at the bottom of the cutout to the kids.
- Invite kids to read, or repeat the sentence after you.
- Ask: “How often do you turn on the light switch in your bedroom or bathroom? Once? Each time you’re in the room?”
- Remind kids that we need the light of Jesus every day.
- Set out the markers.
- Direct kids to color and decorate their light switch cover.
- As kids color, explain they can take their light switch cover home, and ask an adult to help them cut out the center to fit around their actual switch on the wall.
 - Instruct the kids that they will need tape to place the light switch cover over their light switch.
- Read the sentence on the light switch cover one more time together: **[Bottom Line] “Jesus is the light of the world.”**

What You Say:

““Your light switch covers look great! Each time you turn on a light, your light switch covers can help you remember to thank God for sending Jesus to be the light of the whole world. Ask God to help you see the areas where you need to change to become more like Jesus. Jesus came to be YOUR light, to make a way for you to have a relationship with God forever. When you follow the Light of the world, Jesus will help you become more and more like Him as you show compassion and love to others. [Bottom Line] Jesus is the light of the world.”

Glow Stick Pass Memory Verse

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Memory Verse” Activity Page, and a glow stick

What You Do:

- Hold up the “Memory Verse” Activity Page and read the verse aloud (or call on a volunteer to read it aloud) a few times.
- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Join the circle.
- Place the “Memory Verse” Activity Page on the floor in front of you.
- Explain that you will work together to recite the memory verse while passing the glow stick around the circle.
- Assign yourself the first word of the verse.
- Go around the circle and assign each kid the next word in the verse so kids know what to say when they get the glow stick.
- Say the first word of the verse as you pass the glow stick to the kid on your left.
- Continue passing the glow stick around the circle, saying one word of the verse each time the glow stick is passed.
- Assign new words as needed.
- Lead all the kids to recite the verse together for review.

- Repeat saying the verse twice, passing the glow stick to the right as you say the verse together, one word per pass.
- When you start the verse the third time, divide the group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder, facing the other team.
- Stand at the end of one team's line and pass the glow stick to the kid across from you as you say the first word of the verse.
- Continue instructing the teams to pass the glow stick back and forth across to the opposite teams as you repeat the verse together.
 - If the glow stick arrives at the end of the line before you complete the verse, signal the last kid in line to pass the glow stick back to reverse the direction until you've recited the entire verse.

What You Say:

““When you let your light shine by showing compassion to others, it can show them what God is like! [Bottom Line] Jesus is the light of the world. When we put our trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him, Jesus promises to show us the best way to live. Every time you choose to show compassion and love like Jesus loves, you shine His light. Those good things you do help others see the light too! I'm so glad that God sent Jesus as the light of the world so we could know and follow Him.”

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:

- Encourage the kids to think about someone they have a hard time showing compassion to.
 - If needed, prompt kids to think about who they have trouble getting along with, argue with, or who has hurt their feelings.

- Give the kids a moment to stop and pray, asking Jesus to help them treat that person with love and compassion, just as He loves them.
- Close the group in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus as the light to show us how to live and love others.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be the Light of the world. We needed a Rescuer, and You sent Jesus! Help us to put our trust in Jesus and to show compassion to others, especially the ones we’ve prayed for today. We want other people around us to see YOUR light so they can follow You too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their light switch covers as they talk about how [Bottom Line] Jesus is the light of the world.