



WEEK TWO – SEPTEMBER 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *How can you be a 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 (NIRV)*

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. 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: **What do you have that you can use to help others?** When you think of light, do you typically think about the brightest light in the sky, or the little light emitting from your phone? When you’re in the dark, either one could come in handy and help get you where you need to go. This question is a great way to engage preteens in moving from seeing light to being a light, making a difference right now with what they have.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that kids will take turns saying, *“I’m going on a picnic, and I’m bringing _____ to share.”*
 - Kids should think of something they can share with friends that begins with the letter, “A” (For example: apple pie, almonds, etc.).
 - The kid sitting to their left will then say, *“I’m going on a picnic, and I’m bringing apple pie/almonds and _____ to share.”* They should add something they can share with friends that begins with the letter, “B” (For example: blanket or banana bread).
- Choose one kid to go first.
- Continue going around the circle in a clockwise direction, each kid adding to the phrase.
- If time allows, you could play another round, but this time with a different twist, such as *“I’m going on vacation, and I’m bringing...”*

What You Say:

“All this picnic talk is making me hungry! It seems like this group would put together the best picnic ever! *[Transition]* **In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about a kid who had something to share with a whole bunch of hungry people! Let’s go hear more.”**

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we read about a massive miracle found in John 6:1-13. Jesus had just crossed over the Sea of Galilee with His disciples when a massive crowd arrived. Jesus knew that the people would be hungry . . . and instead of sending them on their way, He had compassion on them and fed them. With a little boy’s small meal of only five loaves and two fish, Jesus turned a small amount of food into a huge blessing.

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

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What do you have that you can use to help others?
 - Do you know someone you can help? If so, how can you help them?
 - Why should you help others?
 - What can stand in the way of your ability to help others?
 - Why is it sometimes hard to share?

Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Share the Light” Activity Page, LED light up balloons

What You Do:

- Direct kids to stand in a circle.
- Choose a kid to go first and hand them the stack of cards from the “Share the Light” Activity Page.
- Ask them to pick the first card, read it out loud for the group, then give an answer on how they could share what they have in that scenario.
- After they share, tell them to pass the cards to the kid on their left.
- Give the kid who just went an LED light up balloon; invite them to blow it up, tie it, and hold it in their hands while the rest of the group takes their turns reading scenarios.
- Continue around the circle, allowing each kid to respond to a scenario then prepare a balloon.
- Once everyone has had a turn, admire the circle lit up with everyone’s balloons.
- Explain that everyone has something to share, even if it’s as simple as offering up a smile to brighten someone else’s day. When we choose to share with others and show compassion, we are living brightly to shine the light of Jesus to the world around us.

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Prayer Share” Activity Page, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle, and make sure to include yourself.
- Tell the kids to think of a prayer request.

- Explain that it could be anything they want to talk to God about.
 - Maybe they have a test coming up or they need to forgive a friend.
 - Encourage kids that we all can use prayer, even if everything seems to be going well.
 - Give some suggestions of other ideas of common prayer requests that might apply to them.
- Give each kid a “Prayer Share” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Ask kids to write their name on the top line then briefly write their prayer request in the space provided.
 - Explain they should not write something they wouldn’t want to share with the group.
- Once everyone has finished, tell kids to pass their papers to the person sitting on their left.
- Ask kids to rewrite their name and prayer request on the second line of the page they received.
- Repeat until every page has made it completely around the circle.
- Explain that one way we can use what we have to help others is by praying for each other.
- Share with the kids now that they have everyone’s prayer requests, they can take these home and use them to pray for each other throughout the week ahead.
- Say a prayer for the entire group.