



WEEK FIVE – SEPTEMBER 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *Where have you seen the light of Jesus?*

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. 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: **Where have you seen the light of Jesus?** Jesus brought light to the world in a way that no one had ever seen before. He showed love and compassion to everyone He met. He came to be our Savior and bring light to a dark world. This question will help preteens think about how God sent Jesus to be light in our darkness . . . and how they’ve seen that in action in the world around them.

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 Creations” Activity Page, flashlight,

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Explain that you are going to have fun with light by challenging the kids to try making shadow puppets.
- Choose one kid to go first. Give them the flashlight and show them the “Light Creations” Activity Page. Encourage them to choose an animal from the Activity Page to recreate using their hands by shining the flashlight against a wall.
- Encourage the rest of the group to try to guess what animal the shadow puppet is making.
- Repeat with each kid, as time allows.

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

Bible Story Extension

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Yellow balloon; permanent marker

What You Do:

- Invite kids to stand in a circle.
- Stand in the circle with them and hold the balloon.
- Compare the balloon to the sun.
- Ask kids to describe things that sunlight provides.
- Summarize their responses into the following categories:
 - Guidance (*It helps us to see the way.*)
 - Growth (*We need the sun to grow.*)
 - Greatest need (*We cannot live without the sun!*)
- Give the permanent marker and balloon to a kid, and direct them to write the 3 main words in different places on the balloon (Guidance, Growth, and Greatest need).
- Ask the group how Jesus gives us guidance. Tell kids to raise their hands if they have an idea.
- Toss the balloon to someone who has their hand raised and give them a chance to share.
- Direct that kid to toss the balloon to someone else with their hand up.
- Continue giving kids a turn to share.
- Repeat by asking how Jesus helps us with our growth then repeat again by asking how Jesus meets our greatest needs.
- Guide a conversation around Jesus being the Light of the world:
 - Encourage kids by explaining that we all need light in our lives.

- Every single one of us has done wrong things that hurt others and break our relationship with God. We cannot fix that on our own. But God saw our need and sent Jesus to be light in our darkness.
- When we choose to follow Jesus, we can live with God forever!

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Rainbow scratch paper, wooden scratch tools, Bible

What You Do:

- Ask if anyone remembers this month's Memory Verse (Matthew 5:16). Invite kids to try to recite it for the group.
- Choose one kid who would like to look up the verse and give them the Bible. Provide help as needed.
- Ask for another kid who would like to read the verse to the group. Ask the first kid to pass the Bible to them.
- Take the Bible when they finish, and keeping it open, set it out in the middle of your group space.
- Give each kid a piece of rainbow scratch paper and a wooden scratch tool.
- Encourage them to carve the words to Matthew 5:16 on their scratch paper.
 - They can be as creative as they want in how they write the words.
 - They can add other doodles and illustrations to their papers.
- As kids are working, compliment their artwork as colorful and beautiful.
- Invite kids to share their creations with the group as they finish.
- Explain that when we shine the light of Jesus, it helps the world see the glory of God.
- Ask:
 - Who has helped you see the light of Jesus?
 - To whom can you shine the light of Jesus?

- Encourage kids to take their artwork home as a reminder of everything they've learned all month.

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Dry erase board, dry erase marker, dry eraser

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit so they are facing the dry erase board.
- Ask a kid to write the following letters at the top of the dry erase board:
L I G H T.
 - They should space them so there is room to write things underneath each letter.
- Ask the group if anyone has a prayer request that starts with the letter, “L” (i.e.: *Learn* a new skill in math).
- Write down any prayer requests mentioned underneath the L on the board.
- Repeat with each letter of *LIGHT*.
- Give kids a chance to share any other prayer requests they may have, even if they don't fall under any of the letter categories.
- Ask kids to sit in a circle.
- Assign each kid one of the prayer requests from the board to pray for.
- Explain that you will begin by opening up the prayer. Then each person will go around the circle, praying for the request they were assigned.
 - Don't pressure anyone to pray but encourage them to pray silently if they don't want to pray out loud.
- Close the prayer after everyone has had a chance to pray and be sure to pray for any requests that may not have been assigned to kids.