

April Week 1

**Backyard
SHINE**

April 7

CRAFT WEEK 1

Shine Your Light

SUPPLIES: Flashlight viewfinder, choices cutout, metal brads, crayons

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children take a seat at the table. Pass out the flashlights.**
 - *"Friends, come over and sit at the table with me. Today we learned that Jesus told his disciples, 'You are the light of the world.' Let's make a special flashlight that will help us remember our Bible Story today.*
 - *See this part of your flashlight picture? (Point to the beam.) This is the light, so color this part yellow. (Pause.) Now pick any color to fill in the rest of your flashlight. (Pause.) Great job!*
- ⇒ **Pass out the picture piece. Color. Attach underneath with a metal brad.**
 - *"Now take a look at this! We have some pictures of some different choices here. Some ways to be kind. Let's color each of the kindness pictures now!*
 - *These look great! Now let's attach the pictures to the back with this metal brad. Now when you move it you can see different ways that you can shine your light!*
- ⇒ **Complete craft and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *"In our Bible Story today, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, 'You are the light of the world.' That means when you are kind to people, (move the flashlight to reveal the 'kind' picture) you shine your light so people can see that Jesus is kind. When you forgive people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus forgives. When you share with people (move the flashlight to reveal the 'share' picture), you shine your light so people can see that Jesus shares. When you help people (move the flashlight to reveal the 'help' picture), you shine your light so people can see that Jesus helps. When we do what Jesus says, we shine our light to show the world that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.*
 - ***Who can do what Jesus says?
I can do what Jesus says!"***



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ACTIVITY #1

Circle of Light

SUPPLIES: Bin with items that light up, items that do not light up

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children join you and make a circle in the center of the room. Sit down.**
 - *“Friends, come make a circle with me on the floor. We are going to play a game to help us remember the message of our Bible story today!”*
- ⇒ **Pull each item out of the basket one at a time. Determine if it shines light or not. Items that shine light go in the center of the circle. Items that do not go outside the circle.**
 - *“This basket has things that shine light and things that do not shine light. I need you to help me put all of the things that shine light inside this big circle and all of the things that do not shine light outside of the circle.*
 - *Let’s begin with this. (Hold up an item that shines light.) Does this [item] shine light? (Pause.) Yes! This [item] shines light! So it goes inside the circle. Does this [item] shine light? (Pause.) No, this [item] does not shine light. So it goes outside the circle. (Continue doing this until the basket is empty.) Yay! We did it!*
- ⇒ **Review the Bible story and then have all of the children step into the circle.**
 - *“In our true Bible Story today, Jesus said for us to shine our light. When you are kind to people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus is kind. When you forgive people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus forgives. When we do what Jesus says, people can see that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.*
 - *“Jesus said for [child’s name] can shine [his/her] light. [Child’s name], step inside the circle with all the things that shine light!” (Continue for each child and each leader until everyone is in the circle.)*
- ⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *“Hooray! We can do what Jesus says and shine our light!*
 - ***Who can do what Jesus says?***
 - ***I can do what Jesus says!”***

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ACTIVITY #2

Pass the Flashlight

SUPPLIES: Flashlight, CD Player, EC Worship CD

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children sit in a circle in the middle of the room.**

- *“In our true Bible story today, we heard about how we can shine the light of Jesus! We can let our light shine!”*
- *We are going to play a fun game to help us remember that we can do what Jesus tells us to do! We are going to play pass the flashlight. When the music plays, we are going to pass the flashlight around the circle. When the music stops, if you are holding the flashlight, I want you to turn it on and let it shine! Then I will ask you our important question –*
- ***Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!”***

⇒ **Play music and pass the flashlight around. Pause music. Have the child holding the flashlight turn it on and answer the question.**

- *“Alright turn your flashlight on! Can you answer my question?”*
 - ***Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!”***

OPTION: If you are in a classroom with windows, you could turn the lights off to let the flashlight shine brighter. I would not recommend this if you are in an interior classroom with no windows as it could be very dark for little ones!

⇒ **Let the children play until every child has had a turn.**

⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**

- *“In our true Bible story today, we learned that we can do what Jesus says and shine Jesus’ light! We can tell others that Jesus is alive and that Jesus wants to be their friend forever!”*
- ***Who can do what Jesus says?***
- ***I can do what Jesus says!***

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ACTIVITY #3

Memory Verse Practice

SUPPLIES: Reward Stickers

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **This activity can be done from spots at the table or spaced out in the center of the room.**
 - *“Friends, we have an awesome memory verse to practice! I want to try saying it in lots of different ways!”*

- ⇒ **Do memory verse all together in a variety of ways.**
 - *“First, let’s say it once together. ‘Let your light shine.’ Matthew 5:16*
 - *Now let’s try it...*
 - *Super loud*
 - *Super quiet*
 - *Really fast*
 - *Really Slow*
 - *Jumping up and down*
 - *Running in Place*
 - *All the boys*
 - *All the girls*
 - *Kids only*
 - *Teachers only*

- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested. If time permits, you can do one person at a time and give out stickers.**

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *“Nice work, my friends!*
 - ***Who can do what Jesus says?***
 - ***I can do what Jesus says!”***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY APRIL WEEK 1

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- *If Jesus Lived Inside My Heart* by J. Lord
When we know Jesus lives inside our heart we can do what he says! We can treat others with kindness!

REVIEW (You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - ***Who can do what Jesus says?***
 - ***I can do what Jesus says!***
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - ***“Let your light shine.”***
Matthew 5:16

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ “Today we are going to make a list of places we can shine our light. And since Jesus said we are the light of the WORLD, we can shine everywhere in the world! When I say your name, **tell me the name of one place you can shine**, and I will write it down.
 - *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*
- ⇒ Wow! Look at all these places! Let’s use our list when we pray...
- ⇒ Let’s fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
 - *“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be the light of the world. Help us do what Jesus says so we can let our light shine, too. Help us to shine in [read list children made]. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*