

April Week 3

**Backyard
SHINE**

April 21

CRAFT WEEK 3

I Can Do What Jesus Says Lantern

SUPPLIES:

I can do what Jesus says lantern, contact paper squares, yellow and orange tissue paper squares, crayons

TIP:

Prep your contact paper ahead of time! Peel the backing off and attach to the front side of the lantern with the sticky side facing down.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children take a seat at the table. Pass out the lantern with contact paper already attached. Place a few piles of tissue paper squares on the table.**
 - *"Friends, come sit at the table with me. Let's make a craft to help us remember that we can shine our light! We're learning that when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light for all to see. Let's make a lantern suncatcher to help us remember to shine our light. I want you to flip your lantern over so that the sticky part is facing up. This part of your lantern is sticky—fill it up with the yellow and orange tissue squares. Make sure you lay your tissue paper flat and don't crumple it up – we want the light to be able to shine through!"*
- ⇒ **Pass out crayons. Have children decorate the lantern.**
 - *"Great job! Now use the crayons to color in the other part of your lantern. These look beautiful!"*
- ⇒ **Complete craft and hold the lantern up to the light. Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *"In our Bible Story today, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, to love people like He did. They shared what they had with people who needed food, clothes, money, and even places to stay. They were doing what Jesus said and loving like Him. They were shining their light! We can shine our light too because we can do what Jesus says too."*
 - ***Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says."***

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ACTIVITY #1

Sharing everything

SUPPLIES: Basket with toy food, plates/bowls/cups, clothing

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children join you in the center of the room. Go through the basket and show the kids what is in the basket.**
 - *“Friends, come join me in the center of the room! Today in our Bible Story, we learned about the early church. The people in the early church shared everything they had! They shared their food and their clothes. Look what I have in this basket! (Show them the food and clothing items.)*
 - *Today we are going to do a look and find with these items. I am going to hide them around the room and I want you to bring them back to the basket so we can share them!”*
- ⇒ **Have children close their eyes while you scatter the items. Have them find everything and come back together in the center of the room to pray.**
 - *“Alright everybody! Close your eyes while I hide these items!*
 - *Are you ready? Go find everything so that we can share them!*
 - *Great job! We have so many things we can share with each other. Do you know the other thing that the people in the early church did together? They prayed! Let’s say a special prayer together. Bow your heads, close your eyes, and repeat after me:*
 - *Dear God,*
Thank you for making me.
Thank you for loving me.
Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.
Amen
 - *Great job! When we share our things and pray together we are shining our light. We are doing what Jesus says! Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!*
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested.**
- ⇒ **Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *“Today we learned that we can do what Jesus says and love like Jesus when we EAT together and SHARE with each other and PRAY together! And when we do that, we shine our light! Friends, tell me:*
Who can do what Jesus says?
I can do what Jesus says!”

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ACTIVITY #2

Kindness Charades

SUPPLIES: Kindness charades cards

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children sit in a circle in the middle of the room.**
 - *“Friends, come over here and let’s play a game! I am going to pull a card out of my pile and call out a way we can love like Jesus and I want you to act it out! Let’s shine our light!”*

- ⇒ **Call out a variety of “kindness” commands and act them out with the children.**
 - *Pick up our toys*
 - *Invite someone to play*
 - *Share a snack*
 - *Wave to a community helper*
 - *Share a toy*
 - *Cheer for a friend*
 - *Give a hug*
 - *Help someone carry something heavy*
 - *Share a snack*
 - *You pick! (share other ideas for ways to love like Jesus)*

- ⇒ **Let the children play until you have run out of ideas to act out!**

- ⇒ **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 love like Jesus and share his love with everyone! And when we do that, we are doing exactly what Jesus says!*
 - ***Who can do what Jesus says?***
 - ***I can do what Jesus says!”***

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ACTIVITY #3

Parachute

SUPPLIES: Squishy hearts

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children join you in a circle in the center of the room.**
 - *“All month long we have been learning an amazing memory verse! Do you remember what it is? Let your light shine.’ Matthew 5:16*
 - *Let’s try it all together!*
 - *Great job!”*

- ⇒ **Ask children to stand around the parachute with you and guide them to each pick up a section of the parachute.**
 - *“Now, everybody grab a section of the parachute.*
 - *When we show the love of Jesus to others we are doing what Jesus says! We are letting our light shine!”*

- ⇒ **Show the squishy hearts to everyone. Toss them on the parachute and start to make waves with the parachute. Do a variety of ways: high, low, fast, slow, etc.**
 - *“When we love people like they did in the early church, our love will spread all over! These hearts will remind us that we can love like Jesus! We are going to make waves with the parachute and spread our love everywhere!”*

- ⇒ **After all the hearts have popped out of the parachute, have the children collect them all and bring them back to the parachute.**
 - *“Can you get them all? Let’s go! Wow your love went everywhere! Now before we start the parachute again, let’s say our memory verse together again: Let your light shine.’ Matthew 5:16”*

- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested and then Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *Our Memory Verse reminds us to, ‘Let your light shine!’ How? By doing what Jesus says. Tell me:*
 - *Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says!*

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY APRIL WEEK 3

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- *The Beginner's Bible: The First Church, p. 480*

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're going to make a list of ways we can love like Jesus. When I say your name, **tell me one way you can love like Jesus**, and I will write it down.
 - *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*
- ⇒ These are wonderful ways we can love like Jesus. And when we love like Jesus, we SHINE! Let's use our list when we pray...
- ⇒ Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
 - *"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much You gave us Your Son, Jesus, to show us how to love and to be our friend forever. Please help us to do what Jesus says and love others the way Jesus loves us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."*