

ALLEY SG August 31- September 1, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Lights Up (You Are the Light of the World) • *Matthew 5:14-16*

Today's Key Question: How can you be a light?

Today's Bottom Line: You can shine God's light.

Monthly 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."* Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

Monthly Virtue: Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

1. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: CDs (one per kid), permanent markers, piece of yarn

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of ways they can shine God's light throughout the week.
 - Give suggestions if needed. (*For example: sit in the cafeteria with someone who needs a friend, help parents with household chores, etc.*)
- Give each kid a CD and a permanent marker.
- Explain they should write the different ways they plan to shine God's light on the CD and decorate it however they want.
- As they finish decorating their CD, give each kid a piece of yarn.
- Show them how to tie the string (keep the loop long) in the middle of their CD so that they can hang it near a window in their home.
- Explain that the CD will reflect the sunlight that shines through their window to remind them to pray for ways to shine God's light.
- When most kids are done, give each kid a turn to share what they wrote.

2. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Plastic disposable cups (6 per group), ping pong ball

What You Do:

- Set out the cups (facedown) in the middle.
- Ask kids to watch as you place the ball underneath one of the cups.
- Explain that you are going to mix the cups around, keeping the ball hidden under one.
- Tell kids they should try to keep track of the cup that is hiding the ball.
- Mix the cups around to make it challenging for kids to follow the one with the ball.
- Invite kids to guess which cup the ball is under.
- Ask a review question after the ball is found.
- Play again, allowing a kid to mix the cups around.
- Ask a review question after each round.
- Review questions:
 - What did we learn today about a town on a hill? (*A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Cities and towns were built on high ground so they could be easily seen.*)
 - What does this mean for us? (*There can be darkness in our world, but those who follow Jesus can shine or help people see the light of Jesus.*)

- What did we learn today about a lamp? (*People don't light a lamp and put it under a bowl. They set it out to give light to everyone in the house.*)
- What does this mean for us? (*We all have gifts that God has given us and ways to share those things with others. When we don't, it's like placing a bowl over a lamp. When we choose to share what God has given us, it reflects the light of Jesus.*)
- Who is our source of light? (*Jesus*)
- What happens when others see Jesus' light through us? (*They will see our good deeds and give glory to God.*)

3. Discussion Questions

- Who do you know that needs light in their life?
- How can you be a light?
- Do you ever want to hide your light?
- What can sometimes stand in your way of shining?
- Do we have to be perfect to shine God's light?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Large paper (three per group, per service), and markers

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Give each group a large piece of paper.
- Set out the coloring supplies for the groups to share.
- Write one section from the Memory Verse on each large paper.
 1. *Let your light shine so others can see it.*
 2. *Then they will see the good things you do.*
 3. *And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16*
- Ask each group to work together to read their part of the verse aloud.
- Ask kids to work together to illustrate that section of the Memory Verse.
- When all teams have finished, bring the groups together to read their part of the verse and share their illustrations.
- As a group, read the verse aloud a few more times.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

“Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be the Light of the world. Help us to shine brightly like a city on a hill for Jesus everywhere we go, like [names of places kids named during the activity]. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

- If there is still time, pass out the Parent Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share a place they are going to shine their light for Jesus.