

## CITY LG August 31 - September 1, 2024

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

**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 (NIRV)*

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

**LG Supply: One flashlight**

### WORSHIP

Shine a Light

At the Top of My Lungs

**Have kids get into their small groups before you start Large Groups.**

**SLIDE: Theme**

Hi, everybody! I'm so glad you're here today. We've got a lot of fun planned as we find out how we can 'Live Bright' and shine the light of Jesus. When we put our trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him, that changes the way we treat the people around us.

All right—let's get started with a question.

I'm going to give you some time to discuss this question as a group....

**What does it mean to you when we say to "let your light shine"? Who is someone you know who shines their light to others?** *(walk around and listen to kids' answer in their groups. Bring them back together in a few minutes when most groups are done). If there is time, have a couple of kids share their answers with the group.*

I've got something really important to share with you that Jesus once taught to a group of people. *(Hold up Bible.)* Jesus wanted to help the people understand that the way we treat others is really, really important. In fact, Jesus said that if we follow Him and share His love, we can SHINE like a really bright light!

*Pick up the flashlight and turn it on. Then turn it off.*

We can find this really important idea that Jesus shared right here in the book of Matthew. *(Hold up Bible.)* Matthew is one of the four books in the New Testament of the Bible that we call the Gospels. These books tell stories from the life of Jesus—about the way Jesus lived, and the things He did and said.

The writer of this book, Matthew, was a tax collector . . . and then his life was turned upside down by his friendship with Jesus. When Jesus was about 30 years old, He began to travel from town to town, teaching and healing. Everywhere Jesus went, big crowds gathered. Many sick people were desperate to be made well—and Jesus healed them! But Jesus also cared about people’s hearts and minds. So Jesus showed people what it looks like to shine God’s light by loving others.

Let’s check it out.

**VIDEO: Bible Story**

When you choose to share what God has given you and love like Jesus, you shine His light everywhere you go. Stand up for our bottom line.

**VIDEO: Bottom Line**

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**You can shine God’s light.**

**SLIDE: Theme**

**Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop**

It’s really cool to think about all the ways we can shine God’s light in the world around us, don’t you think?

And we can find out how to do that by looking at the way Jesus lived. Jesus showed us what it looks like to love others and treat others the way we want to be treated. He’s the light of the world, and He showed us how to share His light by showing compassion to the people around us.

Compassion—that’s a pretty big word. Let’s look at what it means.

**SLIDE: Virtue**

Compassion means **caring enough to do something about someone else’s needs.**

**SLIDE: Theme**

We can show people that we care about them by noticing what they need and then doing something to help. That’s how we shine! Remember what Jesus said here in Matthew 5:16:

**SLIDE: 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, NIRV)*

That’s our Memory Verse for this month. Let’s learn it and remember what it means to shine bright!

This week, as you spend time at school, in your neighborhood, or at home, take time to notice the people around you. See if there's someone you know who's feeling left out or sad. Think about what you could do to show them love, just like Jesus did. That's how you shine Jesus' light.

Let's pray and ask God to help us do that.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for the way Jesus showed love and compassion, and for the example He gave us of how we should treat other people. Please help us to shine Your light to the people around us every single day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**SLIDE: Theme**

**CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.**

#### **OFFERING:**

**SLIDES: Hope Mobility 1-3**

We are raising money for an organization called Hope Mobility. It was founded by Michael Panther who grew up as a child with a disability in Sudan. Hope Mobility collects and distributes wheelchairs in Africa while teaching families and communities to care for and to include people with disabilities. Our focus will be raising money for wheelchairs for kids. Each pediatric wheelchair costs \$275 and we will see how many wheelchairs we can purchase to help kids in Africa!

**SLIDE: Theme**