

CITY 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 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. Let It Shine

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Review Statements" Activity Page (1 per group), disposable cups (1 per kid), battery-operated tea lights (1 per kid), and permanent markers (10 per bin)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a plastic, disposable cup, and a permanent marker.
- Direct the kids to write their names somewhere inside their cup.
- Instruct kids to turn their cups upside down and write "Let your light shine" on the outside of the cup in bold letters.
- Give each kid a tea light.
- One at a time, read a statement from the "Review Statements" Activity Page.
 - If kids think the statement is true, direct them to place the tea light on top of their cup to let their light shine.
 - If kids think the statement is false, direct them to hide their tea light under the cup.
- After reading each statement from the "Review Statements" Activity Page, pause to allow time for the kids to respond.
 - When the group indicates a statement is false, invite the kids to talk about why the statement is false before reading the next statement. (*The "Review Statements" Activity Page has answers to why statements are false.*)
- Ask, What if you notice your friend struggling with homework? How can you let your light shine then? (*Invite responses, like: you can offer to help or find someone who can.*)
- Ask, How can you let your light shine then? (*Invite responses, like: you can share your toys, give a hug, pray together, or play with them.*) How else can you shine your light in situations throughout your day? (*Invite responses.*)
- *Kids may take cups/tea lights home with them to remind them of this month's verse.*

2. Don't Hide It!

Application Activity

What You Need: Paper cups (a few per bin)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to form a standing circle.
- Choose one kid to be "It."
- Give the kid who is "It" a paper cup.
- Instruct the rest of the group to stand with their right elbow bent and their index finger pointing upward at shoulder height.
- Inform kids that the finger pointing up is their "light!"
- Direct the kid who is "It" to walk around the outside of the circle a few times and randomly place the cup over one of the kids' fingers.

- Instruct the “tagged” kid to shout, “No!,” remove the cup, and chase the kid who is “It” around the circle.
 - If the kid who is “It” gets to the empty space without being tagged, invite the chaser to become the kid who is “It.”
 - If the kid who is “It” gets tagged, instruct them to remain “It,” and start the game over,
- Say, “Jesus said, ‘*You are the light of the world*’ (*Matthew 5:14, NIV*). When someone tried to cover your light during our game today, you worked hard to make sure it could still shine.

3. Word Pictures

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Piece of butcher paper (3 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.