

ALLEY SG – September 28-29, 2024

Today's Bible Story: I Saw the Light (Jesus Is the Light of the World) • *John 8:12*

Today's Key Question: Where have you seen the light of Jesus?

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus is the light of the world.

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)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Yellow beach ball (or balloon), permanent marker

What You Do:

- Invite kids to stand in a circle.
- Stand in the circle with them and hold the beach ball (or balloon).
- Compare the ball (or balloon) to the sun.
- Ask kids to describe things that sunlight provides.
- Summarize their responses into the following categories:
 - Guidance (*It helps us to see the way.*)
 - Growth (*We need the sun to grow.*)
 - Greatest need (*We cannot live without the sun!*)
- Give the permanent marker and ball (or balloon) to a kid, and direct them to write the 3 main words in different places on the ball (or balloon) (Guidance, Growth, and Greatest need).
- Ask the group how Jesus gives us guidance. Tell kids to raise their hands if they have an idea.
- Toss the ball (or balloon) to someone who has their hand raised and give them a chance to share.
- Direct that kid to toss the ball (or balloon) to someone else with their hand up.
- Continue giving kids a turn to share.
- Repeat by asking how Jesus helps us with our growth then repeat again by asking how Jesus meets our greatest needs.
- Guide a conversation around Jesus being the Light of the world:
 - Encourage kids by explaining that we all need light in our lives.
 - Every single one of us has done wrong things that hurt others and break our relationship with God. We cannot fix that on our own. But God saw our need and sent Jesus to be light in our darkness.
 - When we choose to follow Jesus, we can live with God forever!

2. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Rainbow scratch paper, wooden scratch tools, Bible

What You Do:

- Ask if anyone remembers this month's Memory Verse (Matthew 5:16). Invite kids to try to recite it for the group.
- Choose one kid who would like to look up the verse and give them the Bible. Provide help as needed.
- Ask for another kid who would like to read the verse to the group. Ask the first kid to pass the Bible to them.
- Take the Bible when they finish, and keeping it open, set it out in the middle of your group space.
- Give each kid a piece of rainbow scratch paper and a wooden scratch tool.
- Encourage them to carve the words to Matthew 5:16 on their scratch paper.
 - They can be as creative as they want in how they write the words. They can add other doodles and illustrations to their papers.
- As kids are working, compliment their artwork as colorful and beautiful.

- Invite kids to share their creations with the group as they finish.
- Explain that when we shine the light of Jesus, it helps the world see the glory of God.
- Ask:
 - Who has helped you see the light of Jesus?
 - To whom can you shine the light of Jesus?
- Encourage kids to take their artwork home as a reminder of everything they've learned all month.

3. Discussion Questions

- Do you like the dark? Why or why not?
- How does light help us?
- Where have you seen the light of Jesus?
- Who do you go to for guidance?
- Why does the world need Jesus?

4. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Large piece of paper (one per group), marker

What You Do:

- Have kids face or sit around a large piece of paper.
- Ask:
 - Do you think God wants us to go through our lives in the dark or the light? Why?
 - What are some ways you have needed guidance from God in your own life?
 - Explain that we can always pray to God for those needs.
- Ask a kid to write the following letters at the top of the piece of paper: L I G H T.
 - They should space them so there is room to write things underneath each letter.
- Ask the group if anyone has a prayer request or needs help from God that starts with the letter, "L" (i.e.: *Learn* a new skill in math).
- Write down any prayer requests mentioned underneath the L on the board.
- Repeat with each letter of *LIGHT*.
- Give kids a chance to share any other prayer requests they may have, even if they don't fall under any of the letter categories.
- Explain that we can all pray for the needs of each other this week.

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 Jesus as the Light of the world to rescue us. Help us to remember that there are people around us who are still walking in darkness without knowing Jesus. Please shine Your light into their lives and use us to help them know Your love. Give us the courage to share Your light with others and to be a reflection of Your love in the world. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

- If there is still time, pass out the 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 tell them somewhere they have seen the light of Jesus.