

CITY 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 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)

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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: rainbow scratch paper (one per kid), and scratch tools (or toothpicks)

What You Do:

- Greet kids as they arrive by name and ask about their week.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite kids to share any stories about the brightest light they've ever seen.
- When enough kids have arrived, give each kid a rainbow scratch paper and a toothpick (or other drawing/scratch tool).
- Encourage kids to use their tool to scratch the paper in any pattern or design they want.
- As kids finish, invite them to share their designs with the group.
- Encourage kids to ask each other questions or offer compliments each time someone shares.
- Say, **"Today in Large Group we will hear about something that is amazing and true that we should be super-excited to share with everyone!"**

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Jesus Is the Light of the World

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Story Scenes" Activity Pages (one set per group)

What You Do:

- Set the "Story Scenes" pages in the middle of your group space.
- Describe one of the pictures from the "Story Scenes" Activity Page.
- Ask one kid to point to which picture you are describing.
- Talk about that picture using the discussion below.
- After the discussion, ask the kid to pick someone to choose next.
- Repeat for each of the pictures.

1. Picture of Isaiah writing on a scroll: "What did the prophet Isaiah write about a bright light?" *(The world was living in darkness, but a light was coming. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote about this bright light.)*

2. Jesus in the manger: "What is happening in this picture?" (*Jesus was born and was placed in a manger or a feeding trough for animals.*) "Did Jesus stay a baby?" (*He didn't! Jesus grew up! Then, when He was 30 years old, He began to travel and teach people about God.*)
 3. Jesus turns the water into wine: "How did Jesus help the people in this picture?" (*He saved a wedding celebration by turning the water into wine so the celebration could continue!*)
 4. Jesus heals a sick man: "What's happening in this picture? Who do you see?" (*Jesus healed a man who'd been unable to walk for 38 years! Jesus spent time with people others ignored and showed them God's love.*)
 5. Jesus feeds more than five thousand people: "What did Jesus do for this crowd?" (*Jesus fed more than five thousand people with just one small meal of five small loaves and two fish.*)
 6. A bright light: "Who is the Light of the world?" (*Jesus! Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life." —John 8:12, NIV*)
- Say, "We can put our trust in Jesus and follow Him because He is the light who shows us how to live and have a relationship with God forever."

2. Shine Bright

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, "Light of the World" Activity Page (one per kid), markers and highlighter

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - *"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)
- Give each kid a "Light of the World" Activity Page.
- Set out the highlighters and markers
- Instruct the kids to trace over the verse and color the page.
- As kids are decorating, invite them to brainstorm ways they can practice being a bright light to the people around them.
 - Here are some examples:
 - making time to help others with a task
 - using their skills/talents to meet someone's need
 - being present with someone who needs comfort, etc.
- Say, "Jesus was saying He is God's Rescuer, sent to bring light to a dark world. If we know Jesus, we can practice this verse and be His light by showing others who Jesus is through our words and actions."

3. Who?

Application Activity

What You Need: “Who” Activity Page (one per group), index cards, (2 per kid), pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid 2 index cards and a pen or pencil.
 - Instruct the kids to write the following four people on their index card, one name on each side of the 2 cards:
 - 1. Parent
 - 2. Friend
 - 3. Sibling or neighbor
 - 4. Small Group Leader at church
- *Younger kids who can't write yet, can draw each of these people on their cards**
- Explain that you will read a scenario out loud.
 - Kids will respond to what you share by holding up the side of their card with who they would want to share that news with.
 - One at a time, read a scenario from the “Who” Activity Page.
 - Once the kids have made their choices after each scenario, encourage the kids to look at each other and reveal their answers.
 - Ask if anyone wants to share why they choose that person.
 - After you are done reading each scenario, Ask the following questions to your group:
 - What exciting news did we learn about today?
 - How can you let your light shine and share that news with the important people in your life?

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 show them their “Light of the World” Activity Page and recite the Memory Verse.