



WEEK  
**ONE**

SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP

**2-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



## 1. LET IT SHINE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Review Statements" Activity Page; plastic, disposable cups; battery-operated tea lights; and permanent markers

### 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.*)
- At the end of the activity, collect the tea lights for the Memory Verse Activity and the cups for the Prayer Activity.

## 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

## BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job remembering so much of what we're discovering today! You hid your lights whenever the statement was false, and let them shine when the statement was true!

"When you turn on a light at home, do you cover it up? (*Invite responses.*) No! We use lamps to help us see better. Because Jesus is the Light of the world, our job is to follow in His steps and reflect His light by showing compassion to the people around us. We can reflect the light of Jesus by letting our light shine.

"Let's imagine some ways we can let our light shine! 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.*) What if a sister or brother is having a tough day? 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.*)

"God has given you love, forgiveness, joy, and special gifts. When you share these things, you're shining light for Jesus. If you don't share those things, it's like covering up your light. When you do what Jesus says, **you can shine God's light.**"



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### MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



### \* 2. DON'T HIDE IT!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper cups

#### 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.

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#### WHAT YOU 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. It's not always easy to shine Jesus' light, though. For example, when someone constantly irritates you or is unkind, it's not easy to shine Jesus' light! Or maybe when you feel hurt or left out, it's not easy then either. Can you think of other situations it might be a challenge to let our lights shine? (Invite responses.)"

"It's important to remember that you can ask God for help in understanding what others need and how you can shine to help them. Being a light doesn't mean being perfect. **You can shine God's light** by doing simple things. When you forgive others, you shine your light to show that Jesus forgives. When you share with others, you shine your light to show that Jesus shares. When you help others, you shine your light to show that Jesus helps. When we follow Jesus' teachings, we shine our light to demonstrate that Jesus loves everyone and desires a relationship with them."

**[Make It Personal]** (Describe a time when you did simple things for someone that allowed them to experience Jesus' light through you. What did you do? Maybe you wrote a card when they were discouraged. Maybe you listened when they were sad. Maybe you helped them by doing something for them. How did they feel?)



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared cups from the Let It Shine Activity, and additional cups

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid their plastic, disposable cup from the Let Your Light Shine Activity.
  - *NOTE: If you did not do this activity, simply give each kid a large, plastic disposable cup.*
- Instruct kids to work together as a group to stack their cups in the center of your group space, pyramid style, to represent a city on a hill.
- Provide additional cups for stacking, as needed.
- Ask: "Where is a place where you would like to shine for Jesus?" (For example: school, home, sports fields, dance class, etc.)
- Close the group time with prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"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."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the pyramid and share a place they want to shine for Jesus.

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