



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Who" Activity Page, index cards, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an index card and a pen or pencil.
- Instruct the kids to write the following four people on

their index card, leaving space between each one:

- 1. Parent
- 2. Friend
- 3. Sibling or neighbor
- 4. Small Group Leader

- Direct the kids to choose a partner.
- Instruct the pairs to stand back-to-back.
- Position the pairs of the group so that one partner from each pair is facing you.
- Explain that you will read a scenario out loud.
- Kids will respond to what you share using the index card they wrote on.
 - Instruct the kids facing you to choose who they would share that scenario with by silently pointing to the answer on their index card.
 - Direct the kids who aren't facing you to guess who *their* partner would choose by pointing to the answer on *their* index card.
- 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 face each other and reveal their answers.
- Award partners with matching answers one point.
- Direct the kids to switch roles, read the next scenario for another round, and repeat for each of the scenarios.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When something amazing happens, it's natural to want to share it with the people we care about and love! **[Transition]** Let's go to Large Group and hear about something that is amazing and true that we should be super-excited to share with everyone!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



PRELUDE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



3. SHINE BRIGHT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "Light of the World" Activity Page, and highlighters

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse, Matthew 5:16, using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Matthew in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Matthew, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Matthew. Help the kids find the page. When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 5.*

- Invite any kids who would like to read the verse out loud to the group or recite it from memory.
- Give each kid a "Light of the World" Activity Page.
- Set out the highlighters.
- Instruct the kids to trace over the verse and color/decorate the verse using highlighters.
- 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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Let's read the verse from your beautiful and bright 'Light of the World' Activity Pages together! (Invite kids to read the verse together.) When Jesus was born, God's people were still waiting for that light. Many thought a king would come to defeat enemies, but Jesus came as a baby and grew up as a humble carpenter. As He began to travel and teach, He shined God's light in a different way. Some religious leaders didn't like this and challenged Him. But Jesus didn't back down. He 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). (Or: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12, NIV)

"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. Remember: **Jesus is the light of the world.**"

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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

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

WHAT YOU NEED: Mini-flashlights

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a mini-flashlight.
- Direct the kids to close their eyes.
- Encourage the kids to think of someone who is walking in darkness—who does not know Jesus.
- Instruct the kids to open their eyes and turn on their flashlights.
- Remind kids that Jesus came as the Light of the world and wants to have a relationship with them and the person they thought of.
- Close the group time in prayer.
- When done, encourage the kids to give their mini-flashlight to the person they prayed for and tell them about God's love for them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"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."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their "Light of the World" Activity Page and recite the Memory Verse.