



Light of the World – Jesus is the Light of the World

John 8:12 and Matthew 5:14

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

KEY VERSE: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world. He sent His Son to save the world through Him."

(John 3:16-17, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is the Light of the World!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Light of the world

SAY: Have you ever been in the dark before? **Let kids respond.** What do we use to see in the dark? **Let a few kids respond.** Light! That's right! Did you know that the world is full of darkness and sin? **Let a few kids respond.** There is a lot of darkness in the world, but we use lights to help us.

Do you know who the light of the world is? **Let kids respond – Jesus!** That’s right! Jesus is the light of the world! He brings light into the darkness. When we follow Jesus we no longer walk in darkness. Jesus brings light into our lives!

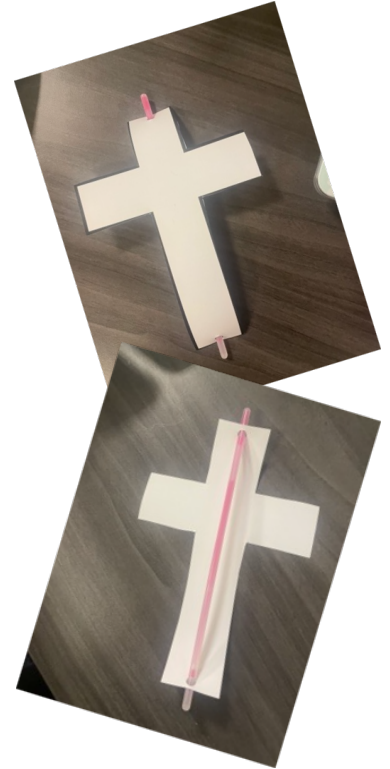
MAKE: Glow Stick Cross Craft

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: paper cross, glow stick (one per child), markers, “Jesus is the Light” sticker

Directions: Have children color their paper cross and add the sticker to the front. When finished, have them put a glow stick through the holes on the cross. You can turn off the lights and light up the room using the glow stick crosses.

SAY: Today we get to learn about how Jesus is the light of the world! Let’s create a special craft to remind us of this special lesson.



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world. He sent His Son to save the world through Him."
(John 3:16-17, NIRV)***

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- King of My Heart
- My Jesus
- WRS: Light of the World
- Closing: The Way

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *The Light of the World – Jesus is the Light of the World*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

DO: We are the reflection of His light

Supplies: Mirror, Flashlight, WRS Song

SAY: When we follow Jesus, we walk in the light. That's because Jesus is the light of the world. We live in a fallen world that needs a Savior, that needs a light. And Jesus is the light. As His children we are called to tell others about Jesus and be a reflection of Him.

DIRECTIONS: Have each child go up to the mirror and shine the flashlight into the mirror. As they shine the flashlight in the mirror have them say "Jesus is the Light of the World". After they say that have them sit back down quietly and think about how they can be a reflection of Jesus' light to others.

SAY: Jesus is the Light of the World. in God’s Word we are told to let our light shine. As you go throughout your week, remember that the light that we need to let shine is Jesus. We are mirrors that reflect His light. Each morning before you start your day spend a couple of minutes with Jesus asking how you can be a light for Him today.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.******

OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

******After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Teacher Bags

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

SAY: Many of you know we have been talking about how we can show appreciation to teachers for their hard work. One of the ways we have shown appreciation to teachers is by decorating bags to be filled with goodies for teachers in our community to receive and enjoy. How have you shown appreciation to teachers either by the words you have said to let them know you are thankful for them or by a gift you have given them? ***Let kids respond.***

Let’s continue to share with the teachers in our life how much we care about the work they do!

Invite someone to pray.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

SAY: *May you remember that Jesus is the Light of the World. You are His child and He wants you to shine His light for others to see.*

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids 4-K:

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper. If children need a quick break before doing questions, have them do some jumping jacks or exercises before doing small group questions to help them refocus.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is the Light of the World.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: John 8:12, Matthew 5:14**
 - **Who is the light of the world?** (Jesus!)
 - **What brings darkness to the world?** (Sin)
 - **Can we bring light into the darkness on our own?** (No, but through the darkness we experience, we have hope through Jesus)
3. **Jesus is a light to us and He calls us to share that light with others.**
 - **How can we reflect the light of Jesus in our lives?** Encourage kiddos to think of and share examples of how they can speak, act, and encourage others in ways that reflect the light of Jesus.
 - **Can you think of a friend, family member, or other person that you think you could bring the light of Jesus to? What might that sound like?** Telling them that Jesus loves them, sharing the hope found in Jesus, inviting them to church or Woodmen Kids, talking about the Bible with them, etc.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids 1st-4th:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is the Light of the World)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: John 8:12, Matthew 5:14**
 - **Who is the light of the world?** (Jesus!)
 - **What brings darkness to the world?** (Sin)
 - **Can we bring light into the darkness on our own?** (No, but through the darkness we experience, we have hope through Jesus)
3. **Read John 8:12. Does this verse mean that we will never experience hard things or periods of darkness in our life?** (No.)
 - **While the light of Jesus can't take away sin or struggle in our lives, what would it look like to find hope and light and Jesus in a time of darkness?** Support the kids in discussing ways that we can turn to Jesus and be encouraged by his hope and light even through struggle – pray and trust that God can redeem and help us through any and all situations; turn to our church family and friends for support, read Bible stories to find encouragement, etc.
4. **Read Matthew 5:16. Jesus is a light to us and He calls us to share that light with others. How can we reflect the light of Jesus in our lives?** Encourage kiddos to think of and share examples of how they can speak, act, and encourage others in ways that reflect the light of Jesus.
 - **Can you think of a friend, family member, or other person that you think you could bring the light of Jesus to? What might that sound like?** Telling them that Jesus loves them, sharing the hope found in Jesus, inviting them to church or Woodmen Kids, talking about the Bible with them, etc.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Be a light like Jesus! Smile/Frown

Supplies: laminated smile and frown

Directions: Place the frown on one side of the room and the smile at the other. As you read the statements below, have children run to the smile if it is a way we can reflect the light of Jesus or to the frown if it is not.

SAY: Today we learned that Jesus is the light! Jesus wants us to follow Him and be more like Him. He is the light and He is the way! Let's see if you can find the different things that please God and are examples of being more like Jesus! If it something that pleases God, run to the smiley face. If it something that would not please God, run to the frown!

1. Helping your friend back up when they fall (smile)
2. Pushing your sibling or another child because you are mad at them (frown)
3. Yelling at your mom, dad, or grownup when you are mad (frown)
4. Giving a card to someone who is sick to tell them you hope they feel better (smile)
5. Kicking someone else because they got something you wanted (frown)
6. Doing your chores without complaining, even if you really don't want to (smile)
7. Sharing with others about Jesus and how He loves them (smile)

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.