



Jesus is the Light of the World

John 8

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

**“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

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE**.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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:

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Light of the World. How do you feel when you're in the dark? How do you feel when the light turns on? We usually are happy in the light. That's how we feel with Jesus.

SAY: In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Light of the World. He gives us His light so that we can be lights, too. When we are kind and loving, we are showing that Jesus is the Light of the World.

DO: Jesus is the Light of the World

Supplies: Magna Tiles (in classroom), flashlight

Directions:

- Help the kids build a Magna Tile tower.
- Turn on the flashlight.
- Shine the light through the side of the tower.
- See how the light spreads everywhere.

SAY: We will hear more about how Jesus is the Light of the world in our true story from the Bible.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**. Choose some songs to sing.

- Jesus is the Light of the World
- This Little Light of Mine

READ THE BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God’s word!

This week, read about a Bible story from John 8.

Read the Bible story below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and repeating key words and phrases. It’s ok if you don’t read every word of the story! Kids have very

short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Light of the World

(Summarized from John 8)

BIBLE STORY:

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a flashlight.

SAY: Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** A flashlight! A flashlight is very bright when it's dark and helps us be able to see. Jesus talks to us about how He is the light in our Bible story today. Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

Share the story of the Light of the World using the story cards in your folder.

SAY:

- One day, Jesus was teaching some people.
- 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."
- Jesus was saying that if the people listened to Him and followed what He had to say, they would live with Jesus forever!
- They would be saved from darkness, which is sin.
 - What is sin? Yes, anything we do that is wrong, like yell at our grown up or stealing.
- Let's turn off or dim the lights for a moment.
- Wow, it's very dark in here!
- Sin is sad and dark, and sometimes scary!
 - Hamilton, can you turn on your flashlight, please? ***Turn on the flashlight.*** Oh, that's so much better!
- Now we can see each other and we aren't scared!
- Jesus is like that flashlight.
- He is the light.
- He helps us see other people who need help.
- He helps keep us safe when we're scared.
- He takes away the darkness of sin and forgives us when we sin!
- If we listen to and follow Jesus, we can have His light inside of us, too.
- We can be like a bright flashlight when it's dark.
- Jesus is the Light of the World!

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

SAY: Today our God statement is Jesus is the Light of the World. We are going to say our God statement in fun ways to help us remember it.

- Have the kids say it in a fun voice.
- Have them say it in a whisper.
- Have them say it in a loud voice.

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we learned that Jesus is the Light of the World.

He makes dark places bright by saving us from our sins.

How can we be light like Jesus? (***wait for responses***)

We can love other people.

Give yourself a hug!

We can share with others.

Pretend to give your neighbor something special.

We can tell people about Jesus!

BLESSING (1 minute)

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: Friends, may you always remember that Jesus is the light of the world. He forgives your sins and loves you always. May you share His light with those around you.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

PLAY: Follow the Light

Supplies: a flashlight

Directions:

- Aim the flashlight at the ground and encourage the kids to follow the light.
- They can run after it and jump on it when it stops.

SAY: We want to follow Jesus. He is the Light of the World. We can follow this flashlight. How can we follow Jesus? **Allow kids to respond.** (Encourage answers like: Be kind, be friendly, give hugs.)

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"