



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
STARTER

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and preschoolers. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your preschoolers for both Large and Small Group time.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to
let my light shine.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD
MATTHEW 5:1-2, 14-16

MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do
what Jesus says?

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.
Spread Your Light

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"You Love Me"
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Shine Through the Shadow
Kind or Unkind?
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



SPREAD YOUR LIGHT

WHAT YOU NEED: Parachute or flat sheet and yellow pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Spread the parachute out on the floor and place the pom-poms on top. Ask children to join

you around the parachute.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite children to pick up the parachute and shake it slowly; then shake it faster and faster until all of the pom-poms bounce off. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come find a spot around the parachute!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, pick up the parachute and hold it really still. Look at all the pretty yellow pom-poms on the parachute! They look like little lights. Let's pretend each of these pom-poms is a little light that shines brighter each time we shake the parachute. Let's start by shaking the parachute gently. *(Pause.)* Do you see the lights moving and shining bright? What happens if we shake the parachute faster? Let's give it a try. *(Pause.)* Whoa! The lights bounced really high and off the parachute! Lay the parachute on the ground, and let's work together to gather all the lights and toss them back onto the parachute. *(Pause.)* Great job! Shake slowly . . . then faster and faster! *(Repeat as desired.)* Awesome job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible Story we're going to hear how you and you and you—*(point to all the children)* how each one of us—can be lights and shine bright when we are kind, when we share, when we forgive, and when we help each other. I can't wait to hear our story today!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling each child's name and encouraging child to jump up and twinkle their fingers like they are shining like a light. Repeat with each child as you move to your designated area.

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let my light shine.

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



SHINE THROUGH THE SHADOW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: White butcher paper, flashlight, crayons, washable marker, and a chisel-tip permanent marker. *Optional: scissors*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cover a table with butcher paper.

Draw small hearts on the paper around the table, one for each child. In the center of the paper with the chisel-tip marker, write "Let your light shine." Matthew 5:16

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to hold one hand about 4"-5" above a heart on the table. Hold the flashlight over their hand to cast a shadow. Then trace the shadow with the washable marker. Encourage children to decorate their traced hand on the paper.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story. Hang the butcher paper outside the room for display at pick-up. *Option: Cut out each child's hand and send home, if desired.*

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to let my light shine.

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD
MATTHEW 5:1-2, 14-16**

MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do what Jesus says?

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come sit at the table with me. I have a fun activity for us to do today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Find a heart on the table and hold your hand over it like this. (*Demonstrate.*) I'm going to come around and shine a light on your hand to make a shadow. Look at the shadow your hand is making! Let me trace your hand on the paper. (*Pause.*) Now decorate your hand on the paper with the crayons. Okay, everyone hold your hand over the hearts again. (*Pause.*) Can you see the heart your hand is covering? (*Pause.*) No! That's like our Bible Story today. Let's review!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, 'You are the light of the world!' That means when you are kind to people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus is kind. When you forgive people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus forgives. When you share with people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus shares. When you help people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus helps. But if you hide your light, like when you covered the heart, you aren't helping show people Jesus. Jesus says to shine our light to show the world that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.**"



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SMALL GROUP PRE-K STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



KIND OR UNKIND? [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO: BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children in an open area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call out a situation. Encourage children to shine their light by holding up one pointer finger high in the air if the situation is an example of being kind. If the situation is not an example of being kind, ask children to cover their light by placing the other hand over the pointer finger. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

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MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends, come join me over here. I have a fun game for us to play today. I'm going to call out different things, and I want you to shine your light (hold up pointer finger high in the air) if it's something kind. If it's something unkind, I want you to cover your light." (Cover your finger with the opposite hand.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's do a practice round. Show me what you do if I say something unkind. (Demonstrate.) Now show me what you do if I say something kind. (Demonstrate.) Great job! Okay, let's play!

"I cheer for a friend. Show me: Is that kind or unkind? (Pause.) Great job shining your lights!

"I throw trash on the ground. Show me: Is that kind or unkind? (Pause.) Yes! That is unkind and I am not shining my light!

"I smile at a new friend. Show me: Is that kind or unkind? (Pause.) Yes! It is kind!

"I share a toy. Show me: Is that kind or unkind? (Pause.) Good job! It is kind to share! Way to shine your lights!

"Okay, what if I make a mean face? Show me: Is that kind or unkind? (Pause.) That is unkind!

"What if I don't let you play with me? Show me: Is that kind or unkind? (Pause.) Boo! That is unkind too!

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

“What if I give you a high five? Show me: Is that kind or unkind? *(Pause.)* That is kind. If I tell you your shoes are really cool, is that being kind or unkind? *(Pause.)* Wow, friends! You are so good at this game! Everyone, hold up your lights. *(Pause.)* Look at all these bright, shining lights! You are amazing!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Jesus says to shine our light to show the world that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. **Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says.**”



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SMALL GROUP PRE-K STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Matthew 5:16. Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to hold up one pointer finger, like a candle, as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions, and then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of places we can let our light shine.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend our finger is a light (hold up pointer finger), like a candle, while we walk to our Small Group spot. Everyone, hold up your light and follow me! (Hold up your pointer finger like a candle as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Here we are! You can put your hands down. Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible Story today, Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world!' Do you remember how we can be the light of the world? (Pause.) When we do what Jesus says, we shine like a light so other people can see that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever! That means I can do what Jesus says and shine, and you can do what Jesus says and shine! So when I ask you 'Who can do what Jesus says?' I want everyone to say, I can do what Jesus says! Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says! And when we do what Jesus says, we shine!"

"Now it's time to start learning a new Bible verse. In this Bible verse, Jesus says, 'Let (move flat hands forward from hip) your light (palms facing forward) shine,' (twinkling hands moving out) Matthew 5:16. (Open hands like a book.) Stand up with me and let's say Jesus' words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Let (move flat hands forward from hip) your light (palms facing forward) shine,' (twinkling hands moving out) Matthew 5:16. (Open hands like a book.)"

BIBLE STORY

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STORY

GROUPS

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Wow! (*Clap.*) You sound so good! I love saying Jesus’ words together! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we are going to make a list of places where we can shine our light. And since Jesus said we are the light of the WORLD, we can shine everywhere in the world! When I say your name, tell me one place you can shine, and I will write it in our journal. (*Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “This is such a great list! Let’s use it when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be the light of the world. Help us do what Jesus says so we can let our light shine too. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age-appropriate and hands-on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activity as your preschoolers arrive. Let one teacher lead the activity while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

SPREAD YOUR LIGHT

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Parachute or flat sheet
- Yellow pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread the parachute out on the floor and place the pom-poms on top.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

SHINE THROUGH THE SHADOW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- White butcher paper
- Flashlight

- Crayons
- Washable marker
- Chisel-tip permanent marker
- *Optional: scissors*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover a table with butcher paper.
- Draw small hearts on the paper around the table, one for each child.
- In the center of the paper with the chisel-tip marker, write "Let your light shine." Matthew 5:16

KIND OR UNKIND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3NwjOWh.)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per small group.
- Place one card in your Bible at Matthew 5:16.



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **WORSHIP** **STORY** **GROUPS** **HOME**

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the memory verse card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and memory verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_Shine