

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can shine God's light.

BIBLE

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

John 2:13-22; Matthew 5:14-16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

In the dark, glow sticks and neon lights help us see what we might miss—and that's what Jesus did in the temple. This week, Jesus cleared out the temple courts, showing people what truly mattered to God. When we live in a way that points others to God's truth and love, **we can shine God's light.**

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?" – Psalm 27:1a (NIV)



DISCUSSION

BIBLE QUESTIONS

- **What did Jesus find in the temple courts?** People were selling cattle, sheep, and doves and exchanging money.
- **What did Jesus do about it?** He made a whip out of cords and drove the people and animals away. He overturned the tables.
- **Why did these things upset Jesus?** They were turning God's house into a market, and they were focused on the wrong things.
- **Read Matthew 5:16. Why should we let our light shine?** So that others may see and know God.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **What is one way you've seen someone shine God's light?**
- **What are some things that might get in the way of shining God's light?**
- **What is one way you can shine God's light this week?**

ACTIVITY

WHAT TO DO



Have kids create their own light-themed salt art by drawing a design (light bulb, sun, lamp, cross, or the word "light" or "Jesus") on dark paper using school glue. Have them sprinkle salt on the glue and shake off the excess into a bowl that others can use. Saturate a paintbrush with bright watercolor paint and lightly touch the salt. The color will spread! Scan QR code for a worked example.

WHAT TO SAY

Jesus calls us both the salt and the light of the world. Just like how salt seasons and preserves and how light clears the way in the darkness, we can make a positive difference in the world. Remember we can shine God's light and help others know God!