



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

I am a light when
I love like Jesus.

WE ARE THE LIGHT
MATTHEW 5:14-16;
ACTS 8:26-35

MEMORY VERSE

"You are the
light of the world."

MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV

KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

BOTTOM LINE

I can love like Jesus.

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

Hide and Find

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Be a Light"

Bible Story

Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Shine Bright

Absorbing Hearts

Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



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



HIDE AND FIND

WHAT YOU NEED: Tap lights and duct tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cover the battery compartment of each tap light with duct tape. Turn the tap lights on, and hide them in the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to look around the room to find the hidden lights. When a light is found, ask the child to bring the light to you. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, I've hidden several lights around the room. Do you see them? Let's play a game and see how many lights we can find."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Are you ready? Go find the lights! (Pause.) Yay! [Child's name] found a light! Bring the light to me. Hooray! [Child's name] found a light! (Repeat with each child who finds a light.) That was fun! Everyone did such a great job finding the lights!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about how we should shine our lights and not hide them. Let's go hear all about it."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by encouraging children to hug themselves when you say their name. Say: "Jesus loves . . . [child's name]!" Repeat with each child.

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WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRE-K
STARTER

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



SHINE BRIGHT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Shine Bright" Activity Page, cardstock, plastic tablecloth(s), plastic bowls, water, black washable paint, paintbrushes, crayons in a variety of neon or bright colors, permanent marker, and baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Shine Bright" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Cover table(s) with tablecloth(s). In several bowls, mix a couple of tablespoons of paint with water in a 3:1 ratio.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to heavily color the heart on their paper with crayons because this will help increase the resist effect. Once finished, ask children to paint over their whole paper, and watch how the colors shine through. Review the Bible Story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! Come over to the table and have a seat. I have a fun way for your creative light to shine today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "What do you see on your paper? (Pause.) It's a huge heart! I would like for you to take these super-bright crayons to color your heart! But for this activity, I want you to color really hard—so bare down as you color. You can use all different colors or just one! Let's get coloring! (Pause.) Great! Now that you have colored your hearts so beautifully, we're going to cover them up. (Make a surprised, hands-on-your-cheeks face.) But how are your hearts going to shine if we cover them up? Just wait for the surprise!"

"Dip your paintbrush into the paint, and then cover your whole paper with the paint. (Pause.) What's happening? (Smile really big.) Did your bright heart shine through? (Pause.) It DID! Sweet friends, when we love like Jesus, our heart shines bright so others can see how much Jesus loves them. Let's let these dry, and clean our hands while we review today's Bible Story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we heard a true story from the Bible about when Jesus told His friends, the disciples, 'You are the light of the world' (Matthew 5:14, NIV). That means when we love like Jesus, we shine bright, and everyone can see that Jesus loves them. Like your picture, when we love like Jesus, we aren't hiding our light—it shines bright for all to see! Philip loved like Jesus when he helped the man in the chariot understand God's words. Philip told the man that Jesus loved him and had come to be his friend forever! Amazing! Philip loved like Jesus, and we can love like Jesus too. **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!**"

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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE
an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



ABSORBING HEARTS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper towels; wax paper; plastic punch cups; liquid food coloring; water; pipettes; large, shallow plastic bin or tray; plastic tablecloth; and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut approximately twenty 3" hearts out of the paper towels. Cut approximately five 3" hearts from the wax paper. Spread the hearts out in the bottom of the bin/tray. Spread out the tablecloth, and put the bin/tray on top. Fill cups about halfway with water, four per Small Group. Add food coloring to each cup. Place pipettes nearby. *Note: Prepare extra hearts to repeat the activity if desired.*

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to squeeze liquid into the pipettes and then onto the hearts. Talk about how some of the hearts absorb or fill with the color while the other hearts the color stays in a droplet or rolls off.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends! I have a fun experiment for us to explore today! Come join me around the bin/tray."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "What do you see in the bin/tray? *(Pause.)* Hearts! Lots and lots of hearts! And hearts make us think of . . . LOVE! That's right! Let's work together to fill these hearts. *(Pause.)* Wow! Look how these hearts filled with color, but some of them the color is just sitting on top or rolled right off. Let's fill all of the hearts in the bin/tray. *(Pause.)* Let's try one more time to add color to these hearts. *(Point to the wax paper hearts.)* They still didn't fill with the color. These hearts that are full of color make me think of how we are full of light when we love like Jesus! But when we don't love like Jesus, we are hiding our lights, so our hearts aren't full."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, when we love like Jesus, we shine bright and everyone can see that Jesus loves them. **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!** One more time. **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus.**"

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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 from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

BIBLE STORY

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I love like Jesus.

WE ARE THE LIGHT
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ACTS 8:26-35

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Matthew 5:14. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

Lead the children in opening and closing their hands, like blinking lights, as you walk to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people we can tell the good news about Jesus.

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

MEMORY VERSE

"You are the
light of the world."

MATTHEW 5:14, NIRV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going make blinking lights with our hands, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Show me your blinking hand lights! Yay! Let's blink our lights while we walk to our Small Group spot. Follow me! (*Open and close your hands, like blinking lights, as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) That was fun! You can stop blinking your lights and sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

KEY QUESTION

Who can love like Jesus?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Philip let his light shine bright just like Jesus said. Do you remember what Philip did? (*Pause.*) Yes! Philip sat with the man and helped him understand God's words about Jesus. Philip shined his light and helped the man. Philip loved like Jesus!"

BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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my friend forever.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

"We are learning a Bible verse to help us remember that when we love like Jesus, we are the light of the world too. It says, 'You (*point to others*) are the light (*twinkle fingers*) of the world,' (*make a circle with your arms*) Matthew 5:14. (*Open hands like a book.*) Jesus said those words! Jesus is saying, 'You are the light of the world' (*Matthew 5:14, NIV*). Let's stand up and say that together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'You (*point to others*) are the light (*twinkle fingers*) of the world,' (*make a circle with your arms*) Matthew 5:14. (*Open hands like a book.*) I want to love like Jesus and be the light of the world. And you can too! You can love like Jesus! **Who can love like Jesus? I can love like Jesus!** Yay! We can love like Jesus!

"Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Since Philip loved like Jesus by helping the man in the chariot, we are going to make a list of people we can help. When I say your name, tell me one person you can help, and I will write their name beside your name." (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "This is a great list of people! (*Hold up journal.*) When we help others, we are loving like Jesus! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, we want to be a light and love like Jesus. Help us love like Jesus by helping (*read the list the children made*). We want everyone to know that Jesus loves them and that Jesus wants to be their friend forever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."



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SOCIAL

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GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

Offer the following activity as preschoolers arrive. Let one Small Group Leader lead the activity while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

HIDE AND FIND

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Tap lights
- Duct tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover the battery compartment of each tap light with duct tape.

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

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line 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 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 kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

SHINE BRIGHT

[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:

- "Shine Bright" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Plastic tablecloth(s)
- Plastic bowls
- Water
- Black washable paint
- Paintbrushes
- Crayons in a variety of neon or bright colors
- Permanent marker
- Baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Shine Bright" on cardstock, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.
- Cover the table(s) with the tablecloth(s)
- In several bowls, mix a couple of tablespoons of paint with water in a 3:1 ratio.



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GETTING READY

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ABSORBING HEARTS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper towels
- Wax paper
- Plastic punch cups, four per Small Group
- Liquid food coloring
- Water
- Pipettes
- Large, shallow plastic bin or tray
- Plastic tablecloth
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cut approximately twenty 3" hearts out of the paper towels.
- Cut approximately five 3" hearts from the wax paper.
- Note: Prepare extra hearts to repeat the activity if desired.

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 from Week One in Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place it in the Bible at Matthew 5:14. Note: Keep the Memory Verse Card in your Bible all month.

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_LightBright