

Shine Your Light

— FOR —

Jesus



FIRST CHURCH
OPEN BIBLE

Family Life Resources



FIRST CHURCH

OPEN BIBLE

Family Life Resources

We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

MOST BIBLE VERSES IN THIS BOOKLET ARE QUOTED FROM THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Shine Your Light for Jesus

Introduction

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

September has been "Sharing Jesus" month at First Church. We participated in Beaverdale Days, collected school supplies for Monroe Elementary, and welcomed many new friends to our church. Now we have all gone back to school.

This Family Resource is designed to help families become more intentional about sharing Jesus with others. Let's all agree to ***Shine Our Light for Jesus!***

LESSON 1

Jesus is With Me

Parent's Passage:	Ephesians 1:15-23
Family Passage:	Matthew 28:16-20
Key Verse:	Matthew 28:20b

"... I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

When our boys were in youth group, we had occasion to speak directly with their youth pastor. After several encounters, I remember noticing a pattern in our conversations with him. He always spoke the name of Jesus in each conversation.

It was through those conversations that I began to understand the power of continually speaking the name of Jesus. We were mature Christians, actively involved in church ministry. However, the name of Jesus was not continually on our lips at that time in our lives.

In John 14:20, Jesus, speaking to his disciples says:

"On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."

The work of the cross and the resurrection made the way for intimacy with God through his son, Jesus. Jesus explained this further in verse 23. Jesus said to him,

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." - John 14:23

Jesus has made it clear to us that he abides with us. We need to make clear to our family the abiding work of Christ in our lives.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

How do we do this?

- ***Speak the name of Jesus over your family.***
- ***Sing the songs about Jesus in your home.***
- ***Pray in Jesus' name as you gather together.***
- ***Bless your children in the name of Jesus in the morning and in the evening.***
- ***Talk about Jesus!***

Here are a few other ideas to try-

- ***On Sunday, talk as a family about the service. Include friends you saw, activities the kids engaged in, songs you sang, etc.***
- ***Offer a blessing as you drop your kids off.***
- ***Pray a simple prayer as you gather for a meal.***
- ***Close the day with a scripture or prayer***
- ***Start or end your prayer with "in the name of Jesus"***
- ***Play the song, "I Speak Jesus" by Charity Gayle. Sing it over your family.***
- ***Thank Jesus for His provision and protection over your family.***

PRAYER

"Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us every blessing in Christ Jesus. We claim the riches in Christ over our family today. We choose to be strong in the mighty strength of our Lord. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen."

LESSON 2

Let Your Light Shine

Parent's Passage:	John 12:36
Family Passage:	Matthew 5:13-16
Key Verse:	Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"

Have you heard that great Sunday school song?

"This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine! Oh, this little light of mine! I'm gonna let it shine! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!"

Is it stuck in your head now? I hope so! Now my next question is important: ***Do you know what it means?***

Sometimes knowing what something means is best learned by knowing what it is not.

- ***It is NOT about being the center of attention.***
- ***It is NOT about showing everyone how great or special or smart you are.***
- ***In short, it is NOT about you.***

In our world of selfies and social influencers, this can be a difficult thing to hear. "How could this not be about me? After all, the song says, 'this little light of MINE.'"

Followers of Jesus, let's remember our beginnings.

"There is none righteous, no, not one." - Romans 3:10

(Continued next page)

"... all our righteous acts are like filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6

But we believe in a good God, the source of every ***"good and perfect gift."*** (James 1:17). So it isn't our light, but His!

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

So "this little light of mine" [that God gave me] that's what you need to let shine! Well, we're not holding a physical light, so how do we do that? First, get ready for some more "don't's"

- ***We don't lecture someone into glorifying God***
- ***We don't argue with someone about glorifying God***
- ***We don't debate that God should be glorified***

Lecturing and debating might have their place in certain circumstances (arguing is best avoided). But when it comes to shining your light, our Bible verse tells us that it's through our good deeds.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Brainstorm as a family what sorts of good deeds you could do together:

- ***Fall is coming - volunteer to rake someone's yard***
- ***Bring some cookies to your neighbor***
- ***Give someone who needs it some encouraging words***
- ***Invite someone to lunch*** (your treat or it can be home made)

This is just to get you started! Pray together as a family about some good deeds that fit you best!

LESSON 3

Sharing Jesus

Parent's Passage:	Psalms 32:11
Family Passage:	John 1:35-39
Key Verse:	Romans 10:14

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

I read a bumper sticker one time that said, "Keep private things private." I agree with that - we all need privacy. Even Jesus sought His own privacy during His time on earth

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." - Luke 5:16

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." - Mark 1:35

However having periods of privacy in our prayer life, even having a personal relationship with the Lord, does not mean that our faith must stay private.

In other words, it should not be a secret that you believe in Jesus!

Often, the world will tell us that we can't talk about our faith, but this is one follower of Christ telling you that we can do nothing less than talk about it!

G. K. Chesterton, an English Christian writer who lived from 1874 until 1936 once said, ***"One can no more have a private religion than one can have a private sun or a private moon."***

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."

- Romans 1:16

Even when threatened, Peter and John in the Bible declared:

"As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." - Acts 4:20

I doubt that many that read this have gotten to the point of threats like what Peter and John experienced. However, even in the absence of threats, it can seem difficult to share Jesus outside of the church. Take heart, though. Sharing Jesus doesn't have to be preaching in the middle of a busy street! (Iowa drivers are not always the best at yielding to pedestrians.) We can share Jesus in smaller ways, too.

Our family reading is an example of how sharing Jesus didn't take much effort. John merely had to point Jesus out to his disciples and tell them the truth.

"When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!'" - John 1:36

Here are some other ideas:

- Invite a friend to go to church with you.
 - Ask a friend how you can pray for them.
 - You can even follow up the question above by asking your friend if they would like to pray with you (don't worry! It's just a conversation with God - you don't need big words.)
 - If someone asks you why you're happy, tell them the truth!
- "God is good!"***

Pray as a family for other ways you can share Jesus with your friends! Ask Jesus to give you opportunities to share about Him with others.

LESSON 4

Come and See

Parent's Passage:	John 1:29-50
Family Passage:	John 1:35-42
Key Verse:	John 1:46b

"Come and see," said Philip.

The people of Israel were hungry for spiritual food. The priests and teachers had become so entangled in rituals and traditions that there was not much spiritual truth being offered to the people.

John the Baptist came with a message of repentance. The people of God, who knew the books of God's Law, were brought to repentance by John's teaching. John was baptizing them in the river.

As the story opens in John 1, John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Two of his disciples believed what their teacher said and began following Jesus.

What happens next is a chain reaction of ***"coming to see Jesus"*** followed by ***"bringing others to see Jesus"***. In this short passage, five disciples come to find out who Jesus really is. Some things are just better seen and experienced than explained.

We can't literally bring someone to the feet of Jesus, but we can bring them into His presence. When we invite friends and family to church or a special event, we are bringing them into the presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

They receive spiritual truth and often sense the power and presence of God, even before they fully realize all that He has for them.

Try out a Scripture prayer from the following page.

PRAYING SCRIPTURE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Romans 8:4 (NLT) says, ***"Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us."*** [See also Hebrews 7:24-25]

We are also instructed to join Him as He intercedes for us. Here are some Scriptures to help us as we pray for our families. *The lines are provided for you to write the verses down and help you memorize them.*

John 17:9-11:

Romans 8:14-17:

Hebrews 12:2:

1 John 1:7:

Ephesians 4:14-19:

John 10:2-4:



FIRST CHURCH

OPEN BIBLE

THIS IS A RESOURCE PRODUCED BY FIRST CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE IN DES MOINES, IOWA.
ALL MATERIALS AND CONTENT ARE INTENDED FOR INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.
THEY ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE YOUR FAITH JOURNEY.
PLEASE USE THEM RESPECTFULLY AND ACKNOWLEDGE FIRST CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE, DES MOINES, IOWA
WHEN SHARING OR REFERENCING THESE RESOURCES.