

LESSON 13: JESUS TEACHES US TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 Matthew 5–7 (abridged)

01/05/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Matthew 5–7 (abridged)
- In This Passage: Jesus preaches a sermon known as “The Sermon on the Mount.” He talks about living differently than people expect by loving our enemies, giving privately, not worrying, not judging others, and more. Jesus lived differently and set the example for us.
- Bible Point: Jesus is different...
- Application: ...so we live differently.
- Summary Verse: “Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy” (Psalm 100:2).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is different*. Being different (or weird) isn't usually something kids aspire to. They don't typically want to stand out as unusual! Help kids see that when we live the way Jesus lived, we *will* stand out...and that's a good thing! Living differently is how we shine his light in our world.
- Think About: How has your Christian faith made you stand out? How do you feel about that?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that kids would live differently to shine Jesus' light to those around them.

Quick Tip

- This lesson may get your kids asking a lot of questions. It's not likely a Bible point they've learned in Sunday school before! Foster an atmosphere that encourages and accepts kids' questions. Their questions mean they're thinking deeply about what you're teaching, and that's a good thing! It's okay if you don't know all the answers; you can still invite the questions.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers find things that aren't like the others and talk about how Jesus is different.

Supplies

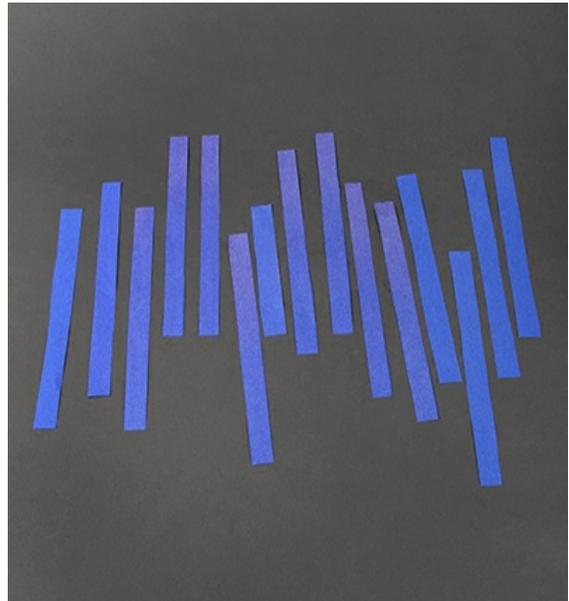
- Bible
- sticky notes in pink and yellow
- construction paper in 1 color
- 1 orange
- 1 lemon
- paring knife
- small cutting board
- 3 paper lunch bags
- "Smiles" handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))
- small wrapped pieces of candy (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Set up 4 stations. At the first station, draw a heart on each of 14 pink sticky notes. Draw an X on each of 13 yellow sticky notes. Finally, draw a heart on 1 yellow sticky note. At preschoolers' eye level, hang the sticky notes on the wall in a grid pattern of 7x4, randomly mixing the hearts and X's.



- For the second station, cut 14 strips of paper that are exactly the same size; for example, 1x11-inch pieces of construction paper in 1 color. Cut 1 additional piece of construction paper in the same color, but make it noticeably shorter (for example, 1x7 inches). Line up all the pieces side by side on a table, but vary how high or low you place them in the line as the diagram below shows. This will help the shorter one "hide" within the row of pieces that are all the same.



- For the third station, cut an orange in half. Place 1 half in each of 2 paper lunch bags. Cut a lemon in half, and put a piece of the lemon in the third paper lunch bag. Draw an X on 1 of the paper lunch bags with an orange half, an O on the other paper lunch bag with an orange half, and a square on the paper lunch bag with the lemon half.
- For the fourth station, cut apart the squares on the “Smiles” handout. Mix the squares randomly, and place them faceup on the floor.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers sing and have a light shined on them.

Supplies

- flashlight



OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers see how salt in water makes things float.

Supplies

- tall, clear cups filled with water (2 for every 6 kids)
- salt (6 tablespoons for every 6 kids)
- spoons (1 for every 6 kids)
- raw eggs (1 for every 6 kids)
- plastic coins (1 per child) and other small items that sink in water

Easy Prep

- Test all items ahead of time to make sure they sink in regular water and float in salt water. We found that plastic coins worked well.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Duck, Duck, Goose.

Supplies

- painter’s tape

Easy Prep

- Tape small X’s on the floor in a circle. Space the X’s far enough apart for a preschooler to sit on each X.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers play a version of Doggy, Doggy Where's Your Bone?

Supplies

- small box
- wrapping paper
- scissors
- tape
- gift bow

Easy Prep

- Wrap the small box like a gift, and place the bow on top.



CRAFT

Preschoolers make baskets.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper bowls (1 per child)
- chenille wires (1 per child)
- facial tissues (1 per child)
- decorating supplies such as crayons, stickers, and tissue paper
- yellow and orange tissue paper
- glue sticks
- hole punch

Easy Prep

- Punch holes on opposite sides of the rim of each bowl.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers link arms with a partner and swing each other in a circle.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” with an extra “happy” for as many times as the child is old. If a child is turning 5, preschoolers will say, “Happy, happy, happy, happy, happy birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’ll learn that Jesus is different. He’s the most special man ever, and he’s different because he’s the best at loving us. But let’s start today by talking about a “silly” kind of different. Maybe you came to church today in a car or you walked. But what if you could’ve come in a *different* way? Would you have wanted to travel in a spaceship or airplane? Or would you have wanted to fly like a bird or swim like a fish?**

Share

- Share how *you’d* want to come to church if you could travel in a different way than you did.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share how *they’d* want to come to church if they could travel in a different way. Help them think of ideas, if needed. They might say they’d want to come on a scooter or skateboard, on a horse, or by jumping from tree to tree like a monkey.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Those would be some pretty fun ways to come to church—and they’d definitely be different! But when we talk about Jesus being different, we’re not talking about something silly. Jesus is different because he’s the very best at loving people. He’s different because he’s the best and kindest friend. He’s different because he’s the best at taking care of others. And when we’re friends with Jesus, we get to learn to be different like Jesus in some ways!**

Pray, thanking God for Jesus, who is different, and for how Jesus is the best at loving and caring for others.



Supplies

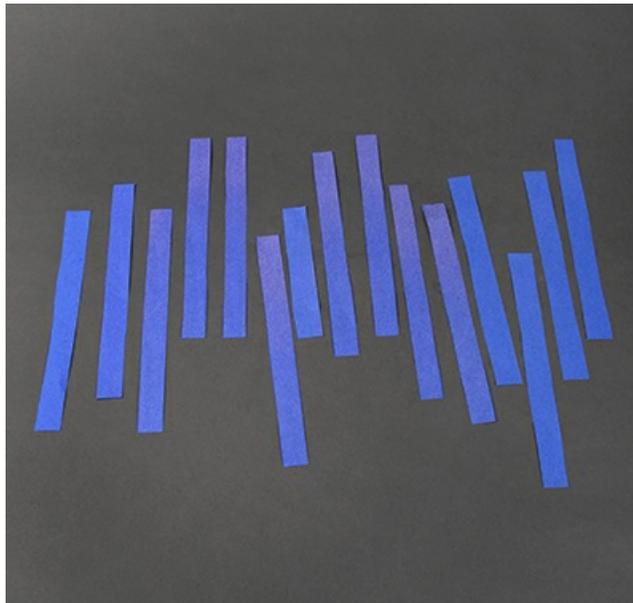
- Bible
- sticky notes in pink and yellow
- construction paper in 1 color
- 1 orange
- 1 lemon
- paring knife
- small cutting board
- 3 paper lunch bags
- “Smiles” handout (1 copy) (download [here](#))
- small wrapped pieces of candy (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Set up 4 stations. At the first station, draw a heart on each of 14 pink sticky notes. Draw an X on each of 13 yellow sticky notes. Finally, draw a heart on 1 yellow sticky note. At preschoolers’ eye level, hang the sticky notes on the wall in a grid pattern of 7x4, randomly mixing the hearts and X’s.



- For the second station, cut 14 strips of paper that are exactly the same size; for example, 1x11-inch pieces of construction paper in 1 color. Cut 1 additional piece of construction paper in the same color, but make it noticeably shorter (for example, 1x7 inches). Line up all the pieces side by side on a table, but vary how high or low you place them in the line as the diagram below shows. This will help the shorter one “hide” within the row of pieces that are all the same.



- For the third station, cut an orange in half. Place 1 half in each of 2 paper lunch bags. Cut a lemon in half, and put a piece of the lemon in the third paper lunch bag. Draw an X on 1 of the paper lunch bags with an orange half, an O on the other paper lunch bag with an orange half, and a square on the paper lunch bag with the lemon half.
- For the fourth station, cut apart the squares on the “Smiles” handout. Mix the squares randomly, and place them faceup on the floor.

Find the Different Sticky Note

Gather children at the first station. Say: **Today we’ll find out that Jesus is different. Jesus isn’t like anyone else—and that’s a great thing. Jesus is the best person at loving others, and he’s the best at being kind. Being friends with Jesus helps us be different, too.**

Point out the grid of sticky notes. Say: **Let’s start by talking about “different.” One of these sticky notes is different from all the others. Can you find it?** Allow time for kids to look at the grid of sticky notes. If needed, help the children find the heart on the yellow sticky note by asking them questions like the following:

- What color has X’s on it?
- Are all the X’s on that color?
- What color has hearts on it?
- Are all the hearts on that color?

Once kids notice the yellow sticky note with the heart on it, pull it off the wall. Talk about the colors and corresponding shapes to make sure all the kids understand how it’s different from all the others.

Say: **The yellow sticky note with a heart is different from the other ones. That reminds me of the way Jesus is different from other people. Read Matthew 5:47a. In the Bible, Jesus reminds us that it’s pretty easy to love our friends. They’re kind to us, and we have fun with them. But Jesus says, “Don’t love *just* your friends. Love people who aren’t your friends, too.” Jesus is different because he is loving and kind to people who are mean to him, and we can be, too. We can be kind to people even if they say mean things to us. And that makes us different like Jesus is.**

Lead kids through these situations, and have them tell a different way to respond. Help kids with ideas, as needed.

- **If someone hits us, some kids might hit the person back—but we can be different. What can we do that’s different?** Kids might say they walk away, they go tell an adult, or they say “That wasn’t nice” and don’t hit back.
- **If someone says something mean to us, some kids might say something mean back—but we can be different. What can we do that’s different?** Kids might say they say something nice or they don’t say anything at all, or they might say they walk away.
- **If someone isn’t sharing with us, some kids might fight with that person—but we can be different. What can we do that’s different?** Kids might say they let the person play with the toy and they look for something else that’s fun to do.

Say: **Jesus is different, and he helps us be different, too. He shows us how to be kind to others no matter what.**

Find the Different Rectangle

Say: **Let's learn another way Jesus is different.**

Lead kids to the second station, and have them stand or sit around the table. Point to the construction-paper rectangles. Say: **One of these is a different size than the others. Can you find it?** Allow time for kids to look for the shorter rectangle. If needed, encourage them to work together to line up all the pieces so one end of each rectangle lines up with all the others. This will reveal the shorter one.

Congratulate kids when they find the shorter rectangle, and hold it up. Say: **This shape is shorter than the others. It's different, kind of like how Jesus is different. Jesus isn't shorter than other men—that's not what I mean. Read Matthew 6:4. Jesus is different because he's not a showoff. Jesus loves to help others, but when he does, he doesn't say, "Look at me! Look how great and helpful I am!" Jesus says we can be like he is, too. When we practice being good sharers, we don't have to tell everyone around "I'm a great sharer!" Or when we bring money to give at church, we don't have to say "Look at me! I'm giving money!" We can do it quietly.**

Have kids sit in groups of five. Say: **Let's practice helping others and giving in a quiet way.** Lead kids to do the following things in a quiet or secret way:

- **We can help someone without being a showoff. Hugs help everyone! Tiptoe to three friends and give them each a quiet hug.** Ensure everyone receives a hug from at least one other child.
- **We can give to others without saying "look at me."** Have all the kids close their eyes. Give a piece of candy to one child in each group, and have only that child open his or her eyes and discreetly hand that piece of candy to someone else. Then have the child close his or her eyes again. Continue with the same process for every child, making sure every child gets a piece of candy.

Say: **We don't have to look for attention when we help or give. We can be different like Jesus and help others without letting *everyone* know about the good thing we did.**

Find the Different Smell

Say: **We have two more ways to learn that Jesus is different.** Lead kids to the third station, and have them sit in a circle. Say: **I put some fruit in these paper bags. Without looking inside the bags, smell inside each one, and try to guess which one is different.** Lead kids to pass the three paper bags all the way around the circle, smelling one at a time. Make sure they don't look inside the bags. After the bags have made their way around the circle one time, point out the shapes on the bags, and pass them around one more time. Have kids try to figure out which bag has a different smell, and tell them to remember which bag it was by remembering the shape.

After the bags have gone around the circle twice, have kids vote for which bag has the different scent, and then reveal which bag has the lemon by pulling the pieces of fruit out of the bags. Say: **The bag with the square had a lemon, but the other bags each had an orange. The lemon smelled different from the oranges, and that's how we could tell! Jesus tells us to be different, too. He says people will be able to tell when we're friends with him, kind of like how we could tell the difference between the lemon and oranges. Let's read what Jesus says.** Read Matthew 5:14-15.

Say: **Jesus is different because he doesn't hide his love for God. He wants us to tell everyone about our love for God! Earlier we learned to be quiet, but we don't have to be quiet about God. Jesus wants us to be quiet about ourselves and not show off so we can give God *all* the attention.**

Share a few reasons *you* think God deserves all the attention. You might say God is amazing because he made every person or God's love for us is so big that he loves us more than anyone else could ever love us.

Ask: • **What's something great you can tell others about God?** Preschoolers might say God is strong or powerful, or they might say God takes care of people.

Say: **Jesus is different. Some people want all the attention on themselves, but Jesus wants us to give all the attention to God. He loves when we tell how great God is.**

Find the Different Face

Say: **Let's look at one more way Jesus is different.** Lead kids to the fourth station, and have them gather in a circle around the faces. **There's one face in here that's different; it has one difference from all the others.** Allow time for kids to look for the face that has the big smile. To help kids along, point out one

characteristic, and have kids look for other faces that have the same characteristic. For example, if you notice one face has oval eyes, have kids look for other faces that also have oval eyes. Point out a few different facial features before mentioning the mouth.

Congratulate kids when they find the face with the big smile, and point out that all the other faces have straight mouths except for the one with the smile. Say: **Jesus is different because he doesn't worry. Jesus trusts God so much, and we can, too!** Read Matthew 6:25-26, 31-32. **Lots of kids worry, but we don't have to worry because we know God will always give us everything we need. We can be different like Jesus is different by talking to God about what we need and *knowing* God will take care of us. Let's do that now.**

Share something *you* need that you can ask God for. For example, you might say you want to ask God to help you pay your bills.

Ask: • **What do *you* need that you can ask God for?** Kids might ask God for a new friend or for some food when they're hungry.

Lead kids in a short prayer, mentioning the things kids need.

Say: **God will always give us everything we *need*. When we talk to God and trust him to take care of us, that makes us different like Jesus. Jesus is different, and that's a good thing!**



Supplies

- flashlight

Sing a Song

Dim the lights, and have kids sit in a circle. Say: **Today we found out what it means that Jesus is different. We found out that Jesus is kind, loving, and the best friend we could ever imagine! And we learned that we can live differently, too, when Jesus shows us how. Jesus said we can be a “light” when we tell others about him.** Turn on the flashlight.

Say: **That means we can show them how special it is to be friends with Jesus. Let’s sing a song about that now!** Lead kids in singing the chorus of “This Little Light of Mine” a few times as they pass the flashlight around the circle. Have adult and teen leaders help preschoolers so they don’t shine the light in other kids’ eyes.

**This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

Pray With the Flashlight

Say: **Jesus shows us how we can be different and share his love. Let’s thank Jesus now for some of the ways he shows us how to be different like he is.**

Have the children point their feet into the center of the circle. Shine the flashlight on each child’s feet as you say: **Jesus walked all over to tell people about God’s great big love.** Pause. **Jesus, take our feet all around to tell people about God’s love and your love, too.**

Have the children hold out their hands, palms up. Shine the flashlight on each child’s palms as you say: **Jesus used his hands to help people all the time, and he was so gentle. He was the best at helping people!** Pause. **Jesus, help us use our hands to help others, too.**

Show the children how to place their hands on their hearts. Shine the flashlight on each child’s heart as you say: **Jesus loved people so well!** Pause. **Jesus, help us love people, too. In your name, amen.**

Say: **Thanks for coming today to do all kinds of different, fun things as we learned that Jesus is different. Come back next week to spend time with all your friends here and learn something new about Jesus.**



OBJECT LESSON

Salt Water Float

[10 min]

Supplies

- tall, clear cups filled with water (2 for every 6 kids)
- salt (6 tablespoons for every 6 kids)
- spoons (1 for every 6 kids)
- raw eggs (1 for every 6 kids)
- plastic coins (1 per child) and other small items that sink in water

Easy Prep

- Test all items ahead of time to make sure they sink in regular water and float in salt water. We found that plastic coins worked well.

Sink Objects in Water

Say: **Jesus is different, and that's a good thing! Let's use salt to make water different.**

- Have kids get into groups of approximately six, and then have adult or teen helpers show kids the two cups of water.
- Have each child gently place a plastic coin in one cup and watch the coin sink to the bottom.
- Have adult or teen helpers gently place an egg into the same cup, and have kids watch it sink, too.

Add Salt

Say: **These things sank! Let's add salt to make the other cup of water different and see what happens.**

- Have adult or teen helpers add 6 tablespoons of salt to the second cup of water, and have kids count as each tablespoon of salt is added.
- Have kids take turns using a spoon to stir the salt into the water. Have kids count to 10 with you or the adult or teen helper as each child mixes the salt and water.
- Have adult or teen helpers use the spoon to carefully remove the egg and coins from the first cup.
- Have each child gently place a plastic coin into the salt water and watch the coin float.
- Have adult or teen helpers gently place the egg into the cup, and have kids watch it float, too.
- If the objects don't float, have adult or teen helpers stir in more salt and try again.
- If time allows, remove the coins from the water, and have some kids put their coins in the plain water and some in the salt water. Comment on the differences between the two cups.

Talk About It

Say: **We added salt to the second cup so it was different. The salt made things float in the water. In the Bible, Jesus told his friends that they were like salt because they would make the world different. They would add love and kindness, kind of like how we added salt to our water. Jesus is different, and he helps us make a difference in our world! We can hug instead of hit.** Have kids give themselves a hug. **And we can share instead of keeping toys to ourselves.** Have kids hold their arms out as if sharing a toy. **People will see Jesus' love through us! That's a good thing!** Have kids give high-fives.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

A Different Duck, Duck, Goose

[10 min]

Supplies

- painter's tape

Easy Prep

- Tape small X's on the floor in a circle. Space the X's far enough apart for a preschooler to sit on each X.

Play Duck, Duck Goose With a Twist

Say: **Today we read in the Bible about how Jesus is different. Being different or doing things differently can be confusing at first, but when we keep trying, we get better at it. Let's practice doing things differently with a fun game of Duck, Duck, Goose that we'll play in a different way!**

- Have everyone choose an X taped on the floor and sit on it.
- You'll be the Caller for the first round and walk around the circle, lightly tapping everyone on the shoulder as you say "Duck" or "Goose."
- You'll choose which person you'll name as the Goose.
- In the traditional version of Duck, Duck, Goose the person named as the Goose usually chases the Caller around the circle. In this version, the Goose will stay sitting while everyone else runs in the same direction around the circle to find a new seat on an X taped on the floor.
- The Caller will also try to get a seat, so there will be one person left without a seat. He or she will become the next Caller.
- There may be some confusion and chaos the first few rounds as kids get used to playing the game differently, and that's okay—it'll benefit the connection to the Bible point!
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What made it hard to play Duck, Duck, Goose in a different way?**

Say: **Sometimes it's hard to do things differently! But you kept trying, and with every try in the game, you got better at playing with the new rules.**

Tell about something you've learned to do that took a lot of practice, such as learning to drive or tie your shoes.

Ask: • **What's something you've learned to do that took lots of practice?** Preschoolers might share about learning to draw a few letters or name different colors.

Say: **You all know how to keep trying when you're learning to do something new or different.**

Following Jesus can mean doing things differently because Jesus is different. We can learn from the Bible how Jesus loved and treated other people and do our best to follow Jesus' ways. Soon we'll be different the way Jesus is different—and that's awesome!



Who Gave the Gift?

Supplies

- small box
- wrapping paper
- scissors
- tape
- gift bow

Easy Prep

- Wrap the small box like a gift, and place the bow on top.

Play a Version of Doggy, Doggy, Where's Your Bone?

Say: **Today we read in the Bible about how Jesus is different in really good ways. Let's play a game about being different like Jesus!**

- Have everyone sit close together in a circle facing each other.
- Have an adult or teen helper sit in the center of the circle, and place the wrapped gift in front of him or her.
- The person in the center will close his or her eyes and count to 10.
- While the center person's eyes are closed, kids will stomp their feet on the floor (while sitting) and clap and cheer to make lots of noise. Do a practice run of noise-making with everyone.
- You'll choose one child to sneak up to the center person and take the gift; then that child will go back to his or her seat to hide the gift box behind his or her back.
- When the center person calls out "10" and opens his or her eyes, he or she will try to guess who took the gift. You can give kids turns in the middle once they understand the process of the game.
- Play a couple of rounds this way, and then play a few rounds in reverse where the goal will be to place the gift in front of the person in the center instead of taking it away, and he or she will try to guess who gave the gift.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about giving the gift?**

Say: **Jesus did things differently. Instead of taking for himself, Jesus gave and gave. Everything Jesus did was to help others and give love and kindness.**

Share a practical, simple example of how you show kindness to others, such as letting a friend choose what movie to go to or giving a long hug to someone who's sad.

Ask: • **What are ways we can share kindness?** Preschoolers might share about giving hugs or playing with a friend and sharing even their most favorite toys.

Say: **Jesus is different, and he shows us how to live differently like him. We can love like Jesus does when we give instead of taking, and we can always ask Jesus for help in loving like he does.**



CRAFT

Light in a Basket

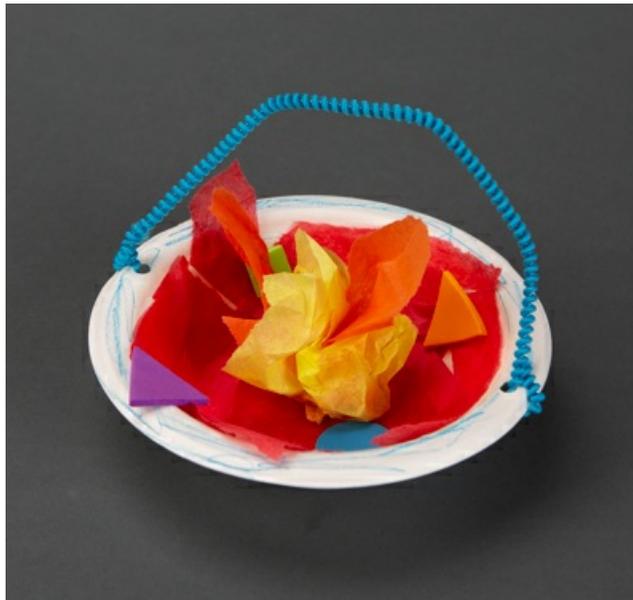
[20 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- paper bowls (1 per child)
- chenille wires (1 per child)
- facial tissues (1 per child)
- decorating supplies such as crayons, stickers, and tissue paper
- yellow and orange tissue paper
- glue sticks
- hole punch

Easy Prep

- Punch holes on opposite sides of the rim of each bowl.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Baskets

Say: **Jesus is different.** Sometimes people say he shined God's light. That means he told people about God and made them feel loved inside. And Jesus wants us to live like that, too! We can be brave and bold and share God's love with everyone. Here's what the Bible says.

Read Matthew 5:14-15.

Say: **We have the light and love of God in us that we can share with the whole world so others can know Jesus, too.** Show preschoolers the sample craft. **Let's make this light in a basket craft to remember how we can share God's light by helping people feel loved and learn about God.**

- Give each preschooler a prepared paper bowl.
- Let children decorate the bowls with the decorating supplies provided.
- Encourage preschoolers to decorate both the inside and outside of the bowls.
- Help preschoolers tear small pieces of orange and yellow tissue paper and glue them inside the bowls so they look like flames.
- Help each child loop the ends of a chenille wire through each hole to create a handle.
- Give each preschooler a facial tissue.

Sing "This Little Light of Mine"

Say: **Let's sing a song that will remind us to not be afraid to shine God's light like Jesus did.**

Lead preschoolers in singing "This Little Light of Mine" and doing the accompanying actions with each verse:

(Have preschoolers hold their crafts)

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

(Have preschoolers hold their crafts while skipping or walking around the room)

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

(Lead preschoolers in covering their crafts with facial tissues and then removing them on "No!")

**Hide it under a basket? No!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a basket? No!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a basket? No!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

Sing the song a few times.

Say: **Jesus is different, so we live differently, too. Let's remember to shine God's light everywhere we go!**