



## Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

**February 26, 2025**

**Bible Story:** Salt and Light- Matthew 5:13-16

**Big Idea:** God shines His light through us.

**The Win:** Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

### Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 5:13-16. Jesus says to be the salt of the earth, bringing flavor to the world around us. He also says to be the light of the world and not to hide our lights. Our good deeds can be like lights that point out God's glory and bring him praise. Talk about this as a family: When have you seen God's light through someone else?

### Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/02/19/feb-26>

### Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to use your kids in mighty, amazing ways by shining his light through them.

### Quick Tip:

You may be the only light in a child's life. Thank you for being there and building relationships with your kids!

### Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM  
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM  
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM  
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM  
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM  
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM  
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

## Low Energy Game:

### Supplies

- small flashlights (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)

**Easy Prep:** Dim the lights in the room.

### Talk About Lights

**Say:** Our room is a bit dark today. I'm glad I brought my flashlight. Turn on a flashlight and hold it up for kids to see.

Share an example of a time you use a flashlight, such as looking for something in a dark closet, on a hike really early in the morning, or walking back to your car after 4th of July fireworks.

**Ask:** • Tell me about a time you needed a flashlight. Kids may say on a camping trip, when they went out at night to look for a toy they left in the yard, or when the power went out at their house.

**Say:** Flashlights help us see in the dark. We can share the light from our flashlight to help others see, too.

### Play a Game With Lights

**Say:** Let's play a game to practice shining our light for everyone to see.

- Form groups of five or six kids, and have each group sit in a circle.
- Lead kids in singing the first verse of "This Little Light of Mine." Give each group a flashlight. As kids sing, encourage them to pass the flashlight around the circle.
- When everyone sings the last line, kids with the flashlights will jump to their feet and shine the flashlights on the ceiling while everyone sings, "Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."
- Then have kids with the flashlights sit back down. Groups will resume passing the flashlights around the circles as you lead them in singing the song again.
- Continue playing as time allows.

**Say:** In our game, we held up our light for everyone to see. We want everyone to be able to see God's light in us, too! Today we're learning that God shines his light through us. When we show God's love to others, they see his light in us!

## Talk About Video:

### Discuss and Watch "Light and Space"

**Say:** We're learning that God shines his light through us. But what does that really mean? Well...let's think about light.

**Ask:** • What are some fun facts you know about light?

**Say:** Let's take a trip into space to find out more about light.

### Watch "Light and Space."

**Ask:** • What new things did you learn about light?

• How do you think the sun can provide power?

• Why do you think light refraction can change the way we see something?

**Say:** Light can do a lot of cool things. It helps us see, and even changes the way we see something when we look through water! Light can power a space station and provide heat. God's light provides us with power and brings warmth to our lives. And just as light helps us see, God shines his light through us so other people can see him.

## Deeper Bible:

### Supplies

- Bible
- glow sticks (1 per child)
- flashlight
- Gospel Coin bags (1 per kid)
- Gospel Circle Poster or Wall Art

**Easy Prep:** Hide unlit glow sticks around the room. If this activity happens in the middle of your time with preschoolers, alternatively, you can have preschoolers cover their eyes and talk about how they sometimes feel in the dark, such as scared, lonely, or worried. While they're doing that, helpers hide the glow sticks around the room.

Dim the lights in the room so it's light enough for kids to find the glow sticks but dark enough to see them glow.

### Find the Light

**Say:** Wow, it's kind of dark in here today. It might be hard for you to see me. Maybe this flashlight will help. Turn on the flashlight, and move to different parts of the room, stopping periodically to ask kids if they can see you.

**Say:** You could see my light shining when I walked around the room, and you knew where I was. God's light helps us know he's always with us, too. We can show his light to others when we tell them he's a loving friend. Listen to this. **Read aloud 1 John 4:7**, using the flashlight to see. When we love others, it helps them see God's light in us.

Turn off the flashlight, and say: When we're friends with God, we can be loving just like he is. And people can see his love in us, sort of like a light!

Since I don't have enough flashlights for everyone today, let's see if we can find some other lights everyone can shine in our dark room. Encourage each child to find one glow stick. When kids find the glow sticks, they can snap them to make them light up. (Leaders may need to help preschoolers snap the glow sticks.)

### Hide the Light

After everyone has found a glow stick, say: Our room is so much brighter now. And look how pretty it is! But what if we hid our glow sticks again? Let's see what our room looks like then. Encourage kids to hide their glow sticks somewhere in the room.

When they're all hidden, **say:** Now that our glow sticks are all hidden, we don't have the pretty light anymore. Our room is dark again. Let's all find a glow stick again so we can share the light. Continue hiding and finding the glow sticks as time allows, commenting on the darkness when the sticks are hidden and the light when they're found.

### Share the Light

When everyone has a glow stick, encourage kids to hold them up in the air.

**Say:** It's so much better with the light of the glow sticks. God doesn't want us to hide our light. God shines his light through us so everyone can know his love. When we show his love to others, it's like holding out his light for them to see.

Share a way you can show God's love to someone. It may be to introduce yourself to someone at church who's new, take a meal to a sick friend, or teach kids about Jesus.

**Ask:** • What can you do to show God's love to others? Kids might say they can give their brother a hug, share a toy with a friend, or simply tell someone "Jesus loves you."

**Say:** There are so many ways to share God's love with others. When we do, God shines his light through us! Lead kids to pray, thanking God for putting his love in their hearts.

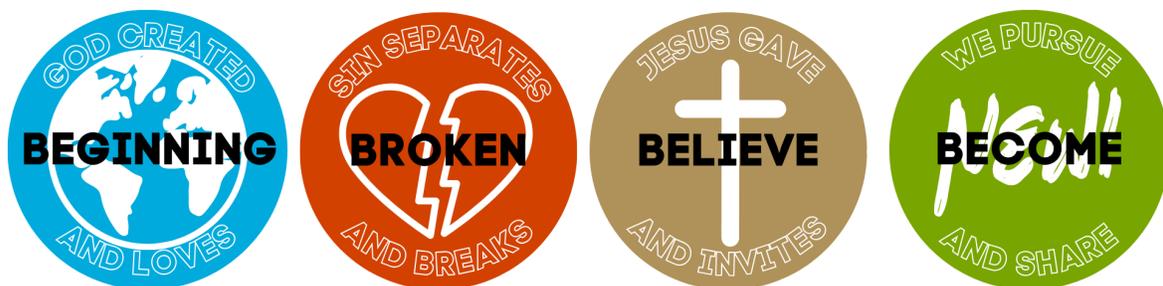
## Deeper Bible:- cont.

### Talk About Jesus

**Say:** When we share the gospel with our friends and our family, we are showing them why the light in us is so important. Today we are going to practice using our Gospel Coins to share Jesus with anyone who asks.

Looking at the Gospel Coins on your poster and the coins for each kid, have each kid repeat these words after you (Beginning, Broken, Believe, and Become). Go over the meaning of the coins several times encouraging kids to use words to explain the picture on the coin. Kids can take a gospel coin bag home. Each bag contains 4 coins and a business card with the Gospel explained.

## THE GOSPEL IN FOUR CIRCLES



**In the Beginning**-The Bible teaches that there is one God who created us according to His perfect design to live in a perfect relationship with Him and with each other because He loves us.

**Because of Sin**- All people have chosen to turn away from what God says is best and do what they think is best. This is sin and deserves punishment. Sin messed up God's perfect creation and it breaks our relationship with Him. There is nothing we alone can do to fix the problem of sin.

**God Made a Way**- God loves the world so much that He sent Jesus into the world to rescue people from their sin. God invites us to believe that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and came back to life three days later so that we can have a relationship with Him. When this happens, our sins are forgiven, heaven becomes our forever home, and we have a relationship with God.

**We Get to Live New Lives**- As believers, we have a new identity - child of God. We are new creations who follow Jesus to become more like Him and tell others about Him while we hold onto hope and promise that one day everything will be made new and every wrong will be made right.

## Life Application:

### Supplies:

- flashlight

### Make a Hand Heart

#### Dim the lights.

**Say:** Today we learned God shines his light through us. That means when we're friends with God, we feel his love. Make a heart shape with your fingers and thumbs, and then have kids make the heart shape with their hands.

### Receive an Affirmation

**Say:** God's love can shine through us so other people become friends with God, too! Have a preschooler hold up a hand heart about one foot from a wall. Shine the flashlight on the child's hands to reveal a heart shadow.

**Say:** [Child's name], God loves you and shines his light and love through you. Repeat the same process with each child.

Close in prayer, thanking God for his friendship and asking him to shine his love through you. Let the kids know how happy you are that they came to church today, and ask them to come back.

## Activity Page with a Point:

### Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. **Say:** We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God shines his light through us. Let's color a candle lighting up a room.

Allow time for kids to color.

### Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

**Say:** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God shines his light through us. Let's shine the light through our activity pages today and find out what we can see.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will poke holes in the dots, then hold their papers up to let the light shine through and make a light picture.

**Ask:** • What difference do the holes make in letting the light shine through?

• You poked holes to let the light through the paper. What can you do that will show God's light to other people?

**Say:** When we follow Jesus, God shines his light through us. Then other people can see God's love.