

Session 19

Shine, shine, shine!

Children hear that they must show Jesus' love to others.

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 8:16; 11:33

Supplies:

- ◆ Flashlight or lamp
- ◆ Items that can be hidden (ex. an apple, soft toy, big lamp or light)
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Big box
- ◆ Coloured paper
- ◆ Pipe cleaners
- ◆ Glue
- ◆ Black cardboard
- ◆ Tissue paper in yellow, orange, and red
- ◆ Stapler and staples



WELCOME

- Give the group ten counts to get into the room where you meet and find a hiding place. Some will find good hiding places, but not everyone will find one. Sometimes you can't hide.
- If you are in a room that can be made dark, play the following game: Catch the light. In the dark room use a flashlight to shine a light somewhere in the room. The children must then run to put their hand or foot on the light before it moves. Turn the flashlight off and shine it somewhere else.
- Hide away: Give the group something small to hide away. You as facilitator turn your back for ten counts and they have time to hide the item away. Try to guess where the item is. Now give the group something bigger to hide, like a soft toy. (You can change the rules to suit your area or venue, like that no one may leave the room, no one may hide things in the cupboards, etc.). Try to guess again where the item is hidden. Take a big bedside lamp or standing lamp (or a drawing of one) and give them five counts to hide it away.



WORSHIP

Sing "This little light of mine"

Sing the **theme song** on which you decided for this term and do the **settle down prayer** as in session 15.



WORD

Matthew 5:14-16

Place a bedside lamp or flashlight inside a box. The box can be put over the lamp or flashlight. Make a hole in one of the sides of the box and tie a piece of material so that it hangs over the opening. Give the children some time to put their hands into the box to feel what is inside. They can guess what they think is inside the box. They must not remove it from the box. When they have guessed what it is, you can talk about all the things that need light:

⇒ Plants need sunlight to grow and make oxygen.

- ⇒ Animals and people need sunlight to survive.
- ⇒ In countries where the sun doesn't shine often, people have special lamps inside their homes that make vitamin D for them. Sometimes when people don't get enough sunlight, their skin will get very light (even see-through!) and their hair becomes a strange colour.
- ⇒ Our Heavenly Father made the world so that there will be enough sunlight every day for us to live from without getting too hot or too cold.
- ⇒ Light means that we don't have to be scared in the dark.
- ⇒ Light makes that we don't bump our toes when we walk in the dark.

Turn on the light and keep the flashlight inside the box. Show that you are very proud of yourself for turning the light on. Ask the children if they can see the light shining. Let them convince you that they can't see the light. Take the lamp or flashlight out of the box so that everyone can see it.

"Jesus said something beautiful about us and light. Let's see what the Bible says in Matthew 5:14-16:

"You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bucket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine on people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven."

Who of you have driven on a dark road at night? If you drive on a quiet road and you reach a town, the lights of the town make a bright glow that you can see from far away. A person can't hide a whole town! (If you have internet access, show the children what the earth looks like from far away at night time).

Why on earth would you waste light by turning it on and then hiding it away?

Jesus gave us this example to show us that we have special instructions. We read in the Bible that Jesus became the Light of the world. Jesus came to save us, to heal us and to help us. But we must also be a light for the world; a light that cannot be hidden.

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:

1. I wonder if you've ever hidden your light.
2. I wonder how it makes you feel to know that you can be a light for the world.
3. I wonder if you can think of a place in our country or your town where it's dark without Jesus' love.
4. I wonder which ways you can use to show others Jesus' light.



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

- ✍ Use green, yellow, red and white paper to make a candlestick holder. The green paper is cut into circles, 2 strips of red paper are folded together to make a concertina, yellow paper becomes the flame by cutting it into flame shapes and the white is used for the same. Glue everything together, make a gap at the top of the red concertina shape and put the flame in there.
- ✍ Print the verse Matthew 5:14 (the first line) on yellow paper and fold it into a circle and glue or staple it together. 3 verses should fit onto one page. Take another colour A4 paper and cut it in half. Fold each half in half again and cut 1cm slices across the fold. Fold the paper open again, fold it into a circle around the yellow paper and staple or glue it together. Glue or stick a pipe cleaner to the top and bottom of the lamp to serve as a handle.
- ✍ Take black cardboard and cut out square and rectangular blocks so that they look like windows. Decorate the window opening with pieces of tissue paper or cellophane to create windows.

Benediction:

Close with the following story:

Many years ago, a stranger arrived in a town at night and was looking for a safe place to sleep. He

was looking for a light in a very dark town. A candle that was glowing in someone's window was a sign that someone was home and would invite you inside, give you food and a nice place to rest for the night. It is such a beautiful portrayal of what Jesus asks us to do. We must be like a light to show others that they are welcome to be with us and that we will help them where we can. This is how we show that we are God's children.

Let's each hold up the light that we made today and say the following prayer together:

"Dear Lord, thank you for being a Light to the world. Help us to also shine our light to help others. Amen."



"You are the light of the world."

Matthew 5:14

