



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Teaches Us to Shine

SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 5](#)

WORD OF WONDER: from [Matthew 5:8](#)

Imagine walking in your community in complete darkness. As you walk, no lights are on in houses. There aren't streetlights. There's no light to show the way. Pitch black. Then you pass by someone with a flashlight. It illuminates the darkness. Everything becomes clear. That one light changes everything.

Now think about the darkness representing people who don't know God. They are in your community. They live in those houses you just walked by. They can't find their way because they haven't seen the light. And then you come along. You are the one shining the flashlight because you have a light within you. You shine your light on the ones in darkness, and they begin to experience Jesus. And then their light begins to shine, and the darkness is a little less dark because now two of you are shining Jesus. Then someone in the next house sees the light, moves toward it, and they begin to experience Jesus.

Read [Matthew 5:14–16](#).

- What would it look like if each of us turned our Jesus light on in our community?
- Who do you think will see it? Who do you hope will see it?
- What if kids turned their Jesus light on this week?

Imagine how bright the light would be. Imagine how your community would change!

—Stephanie Rhyne

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus taught the crowds of people who had come to see His miracles. People from all the surrounding regions came to rural Galilee. The kingdom message was initially directed to Jews ([Matthew 15:24](#)), but Jesus later expanded the mission field to “all nations” ([Matthew 28:19](#)).

WHAT?

The Sermon on the Mount is the longest teaching of Jesus in any Gospel. Many aspects of the sermon interpret events that happen in the rest of the book of Matthew. Jesus tells His audience and the reader how to understand what God is doing.

WHERE?

Jesus sat atop a mountain or hilltop. The setting conveys a relation to Moses, who brought the law of God down from a mountaintop. Like Moses, Jesus calls Israel to worship God with all their heart, soul, and strength.

WHEN?

Jesus began His ministry as John the Baptist was arrested ([Matthew 4:12](#)). He called 12 disciples—representing the restored people of Israel—and began healing in the synagogues of Galilee, where He was raised. This sermon comes early in Matthew’s narrative.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

In His transfiguration, the face of Jesus shone with the brightest of lights ([Matthew 17:2](#)). His followers become light-bearers themselves as they represent Jesus to the world. He promises to be with them always ([Matthew 28:19–20](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Light Under a Bowl

SUPPLIES: tealight, large opaque bowls

Set out several large bowls on the floor upside-down and put a tealight underneath one of them. Spread them out so they are a few feet apart.

We're learning that we can let our light for Jesus shine brightly by doing good and kind things! When we do this, we show people what God is like! When people don't have Jesus, they live in darkness without hope and forgiveness. Let's look for the hidden light under the bowl.

Lift the bowls and look for the one with the light under it! When you find it, hold up the light and say, "Jesus teaches us to shine!"

If possible, darken your room so the light is visible underneath the bowl.

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS TEACHES US TO SHINE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older children can say the words with you as they do the motions. You can give them flashlights or glow sticks to hold up while saying the Wonder Truth.

JESUS—*Point up.*

TEACHES US—*Hold your hands in front of you, palms together, like an open book.*

TO SHINE.—*Hold your hands above your head and open and close your hands (like stars, shining).*



Belief

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us to be salt and light in the world. Help us shine brightly and share Your love with others. Holy Spirit, help us hear and learn from You today as You help us be more like Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read from The Big Picture Bible p216
"The Sermon on the Mount"

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God .**

—from Matthew 5:8

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

Who does this verse say will be happy? How is this different from what the world says we need to be happy?

What do you think it means to have a pure heart?



Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for sending Jesus as the light of the world and for allowing us to shine His light to others. **When I say the word, “light,” hold up your light.**

God, thank You for sending Jesus to be the light (hold up your light) in the world, and for allowing us to shine His light (hold up your light) to the world. Help us shine brightly! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God remind you daily that you are created by Him and He loves you. And may your love for Him be seen in how you become salt and light to those around you so that they may see Jesus in you.

Closing Activity: Flashlight Stomp

SUPPLIES: flashlight

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Heart of Jesus Early Childhood Music Flashdrive](#)

We’re learning today that we can be salt and light for Jesus! We can shine His light brightly when we do kind things. To help us remember that we can shine the light of Jesus, we’ll turn off the lights and I’ll shine a light. When you see the light on the ground, run to it and stomp on it and shout, “Jesus teaches us to shine!”

Dim the lights and shine the flashlight on the ground around the room while playing music from the [Heart of Jesus Early Childhood Music Flashdrive](#). If you have glow sticks, you can set out glow sticks on the ground and let the kids find a glow stick and hold it up and shout, “Jesus teaches us to shine!”