



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

Kids Ministry Content Creator

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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.

Curiosity Activity: Salt Experiment

SUPPLIES: clear jars (3), water (enough to fill each glass), plastic jewels, sugar cubes (6), salt (2 Tbs), spoons

Salt is good for many things. It makes food taste better. It keeps food from spoiling, and it helps clean things! We're going to use it to do an experiment today. When we share God's love with others, we can change the world by helping people know Jesus. Salt also changes what happens in water too. Let's see if we can make something float in water using salt.

Ahead of time, fill three medium-sized drinking glasses (or small glass jars) with water. Dissolve a 2 Tbs of salt in one cup, 6 sugar cubes in another cup, and leave one cup with plain water. It will be helpful to label the cups or set them on papers with the label. Test them ahead of time to see what happens when items are dropped carefully into each glass. The glass with the salt should cause items to float when gently dropped into the salt water.



Tell the kids you will drop the items into the glasses and let the kids guess which glasses of water will cause the items to float, and which will cause them to sink. Carefully drop the jewels into the glasses of water. Watch to see what happens. The item in the salt water should float and the others should sink.



The salt changed the water! It's kind of like how we can change the world by sharing Jesus' love and kindness and hope with others. We're going to learn more about that today!



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 the face of God.**

— [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?



Faith

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Game: Light Under a Bowl

SUPPLIES: tea light, large opaque bowls , blindfold

Ahead of time, set out several large bowls on the floor upside-down and put a lit 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! The world needs the light of Jesus because of sin. When people don't have Jesus, they live in darkness without hope and forgiveness. Let's practice helping one another and shining the light of Jesus in this game.

There are some bowls on the other side of the room. Each person will have a partner to be the helper. You will take turns going to the other side of the room where the bowls are, and you'll choose one bowl to lift and see if the light is hidden under it. Your partner will help you by telling you which bowl to lift up. You can only touch the bowl your partner tells you to touch. If you get it right, raise up the light and say, "Jesus teaches us to shine!" If you get it wrong, go back to the line and let the next person go.

If possible, darken your room so the light is visible from underneath the bowl. To make it harder for older kids, you can blindfold one kid in each pair going to check the bowls so they can't see anything.

You can also give each child a tealight to take home to help them remember they can shine brightly for Jesus!



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.

10:45 Service

Closing Activity: Shining Light Cups

SUPPLIES: flashlight (several), paper or plastic cups with holes poked in them (1 per kid), cardboard box

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Heart of Jesus Early Childhood music flashdrive](#)

Ahead of time, use a pushpin or pen to poke holes in the bottom of paper or plastic cups in various patterns. Dim the lights in the room as much as possible.



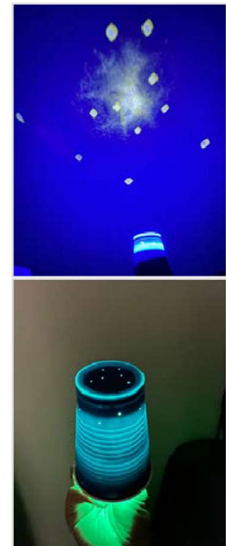
We learned today that the main message of Jesus' ministry was, "Turn away from your sins! ... The kingdom of heaven is near" ([Matthew 4:17, NIV](#)). "The kingdom" means God is in charge and that He has come to save us and transform us. It doesn't always feel that way. When we see people fighting and people who get sick and die; sometimes evil seems to be winning. But God has a plan.

People who follow Jesus do acts of kindness and show love, and other people can see God's love in them. We can shine the light of Jesus in the world by showing people what God is like. Whenever we show love and kindness to others, we share His love.

Let's make cool light patterns on the walls and floor using our cups. You can follow the lights. As you do, remember that you can shine the light of Jesus!

Dim the lights in the room as much as possible and give each kid a cup with holes poked in the bottom. Put flashlights in the cups and encourage the kids to point their cup lights toward the wall, floor, or inside the cardboard box and move them around in patterns. The kids without flashlights can follow the lights. Encourage the kids to take turns using the flashlights.

Allow the children to take their cup home to use with their own flashlight and shine a light for Jesus!



10:45 Service