



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.

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: flashlights (several), large opaque bowls (at least 2), coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Flashlight Play

Set-up: Set out flashlights and large bowls, which are big enough for the flashlight to fit under.

Play: Let the kids take turns hiding the flashlights under the bowls and shining the lights.

Play Station: Salt and Light Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite salty snack food. You can offer ideas if they need help thinking of salty snack foods (i.e., popcorn, chips, fries, crackers, pretzels).



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.

Circle Time: Salt and Light

SUPPLIES: salt-shaker, flashlight

Gather the kids to sit in a circle and set out the salt-shaker or container of salt and flashlight in the middle of the circle. If using the Salt and Light Sheet, print one copy and cut the pictures apart.

We're learning what it means to be salt and light as we share the love of Jesus with others by doing things that are kind and loving. When we do that, we get to bring light to the people around us so that they are not left in darkness, without hope and without knowing that Jesus is Lord! We let our lights shine by showing love and kindness to others.

I'm going to read some statements, and we'll go around the circle. If what I say describes something that is a way we can be salt and light, when it's your turn, you'll go to the middle of the circle and hold up the salt or light. If what I read does NOT describe a way that we can be salt and light, you give a thumbs-down.

Read the following statement and let the kids take turns holding up the salt or light if the statement describes a way we can be salt and light.

- Take cookies to a neighbor. (salt and light)
- Play with toys instead of cleaning your room.
- Help your friend clean up a mess you didn't make. (salt and light)
- Tell a Bible story to someone else. (salt and light)
- Say something mean to a friend.
- Be friends with a kid who everyone else is mean to. (salt and light)
- Eat the last cookie even though you already had one.
- Hold open the door for someone entering a store. (salt and light)
- Pray for someone. (salt and light)

9:00 Service

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What two things did Jesus teach His followers could be like in today's story? (*salt and light*)
- What do you think salt does to food?
- What does light do in a dark room?
- What do you think it means for us to be salt and light?
- When other people see the way we live, what do we hope they will do?
- Who helps us do good things?
- What good deed can you do this week to be salt and light?

We get to bring light to the people around us so that they are not left in darkness, without hope and without knowing that Jesus is Lord! When we let our lights shine by showing love and kindness to others, people will notice. They will see the good things we do and will praise God because of us! Let's talk to God now in prayer and thank Him for teaching us to shine!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for allowing us to shine His light to the world.



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.

Responding in Worship: Let Your Light Shine

SUPPLIES: tea lights (1 per kid)

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

Gather kids together.

What does a light do in a dark room? Why do we need light bulbs? Call on several kids to share their ideas. (If their answers do not include something about taking away dark, you may want to direct them to this idea.) **Are you afraid of the dark?** Allow kids to share. **Then, what do you do to make a dark room not dark anymore?** Pause for kids to answer. **That's right, you turn on a light!**

Jesus loves us so much that He died for our sins—the wrong things we say and do. Before Jesus came, sin made the world seem very dark. Sin separated us from God, which makes God very sad. He loves everyone in the whole world so much and wants everyone to love Him and have a relationship with Him. But not everyone knows Jesus.

We learned today that Jesus wants us to be salt and light in the world. As His followers, we get to be like lights that shine into a dark room and show people what Jesus' love looks like. And the Bible says the way we show that light is through our good deeds. Good deeds are actions that are kind and loving to those around us.

So, think for just a minute about what you could do to show someone kindness.

Give each kid a tea light. Dim the lights in your room.

Look at your light. Hold up your light and share one thing you can do that is kind and loving to someone else, then pray and ask God to help you do that.

Quietly play songs from the [Heart of Jesus Early Childhood music flashdrive](#) as kids share.

Take your light home as a reminder that we can shine brightly for Jesus!

9:00 Service

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.