



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

Jesus says to
let my light shine.

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD
MATTHEW 5:1-2, 14-16**

MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine."

MATTHEW 5:16, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Who can do
what Jesus says?

BOTTOM LINE

I can do what Jesus says.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page; cardstock; Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "You Love Me," included in your monthly files; and "Never Better," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; *Optional: Dance Moves Videos for "You Love Me," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Never Better," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com*

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm SO excited to see you today! Why? Because we're going to learn about how we can do what Jesus says!

"When I ask, '**Who can do what Jesus says?**' I want you to say, '**I can do what Jesus says!** Who can do what Jesus says?'"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**I can do what Jesus says.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, **I can do what Jesus says.** That's right! Jesus loves you and me. His love is so amazing. Stand up on your feet and sing this with me!

Lead children in singing "You Love Me," this month's worship song.

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! Jesus loves us! And the Bible teaches us that Jesus says, 'Let (move flat hands forward from your hip) your light (palms facing forward) shine' (twinkling hands moving out) Matthew 5:16. (Open hands like a book.)

"Let's learn our memory verse together. Are you ready? Watch me say it and do the motions, and then you can do it with me!

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.

"Great job, friends! We can sing and shout because Jesus is the best! Sing this with me."

Lead children in singing "Never Better."



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

"Thanks for worshipping with me today! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Table (*large enough for the host to crawl under*), blankets, pillows, books, and a battery-operated lantern

Create a fort in the storytelling area by draping blankets over a table so that they hang off the back and sides, leaving an opening in the front for the children to see inside the fort. Put the pillows and books inside the fort.

Host enters carrying a lantern as Worship Leader exits.

HOST: "Hello, friends! Welcome to [your environment or story time]! My name is [your name]! It's so great to see you today! My friends helped me set up this fort. Isn't it cool? Have you ever built a fort? (*Pause.*) Wow! Sounds fun!"

"We had to use A LOT of blankets to make this fort. We kept working together until we had the best fort ever! Well, almost the best fort ever. It needed one more thing . . . THIS!"

Hold up lantern.

"This is a lantern! We can use it inside the fort! When I push this button, the lantern shines!"

Turn on the lantern.

"It shines such a bright light that we can read books and play games! Lanterns are so helpful. With just the push of a button, they shine light to help us see.

"Thanks for letting me show you my fort and how my lantern shines light. It's time for me to go now, and [Storyteller's name] has a wonderful Bible story for you about something else that shines light. See you after the story! Bye!"

Storyteller enters as Host exits, leaving the lantern in the storytelling area.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Battery-operated lantern (*from Intro*) and Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible, as Host exits.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Our story begins with Jesus. Jesus is very special because Jesus is God's Son.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

"One day, Jesus was on a mountain with His friends, the disciples. While they were there, Jesus began to teach.

"Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world.' (Pause.) Hmm, how can PEOPLE be a light?

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

"We know that flashlights shine light. And we know that lamps shine light. But Jesus said, 'YOU are the light.' How can PEOPLE be a light?

Smile with excitement.

"Great question! And I can't wait to tell you!

Pick up lantern.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)

"You see, when you are kind to people . . .

Turn on lantern.

". . . you shine like a light so people can see that Jesus is kind.

Turn off lantern.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)

"When you forgive people . . .

Turn on lantern.

". . . you shine like a light so people can see that Jesus forgives. You can shine like a light every day.

Turn off lantern and set down.

"Now, I have a game that will help us remember to shine our light! Would you like to play a game with me? (Pause.) Yay! All you have to do is hold your finger out, like this.

Hold one hand out with pointer finger pointing up like a candle.

"Pretend your finger is a really bright light. What would happen to your light if you covered it up, like this? Go ahead. Cover your light, like I'm doing.

Cover finger with opposite hand.

"If you did this, you would hide your light, and no one could see it. We don't want to hide our light. We want to shine our light!



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

Uncover finger.

"Uncover your light, like me! (Pause.) Now I can see your light!

"Let's play a game with our pretend lights. I'll tell you a little story and then you will show me if the person is shining their light by holding up your light, like this . . .

Hold up finger like a shining light.

". . . or hiding their light by covering it, like this.

Cover finger with opposite hand.

"Let's play! There is a boy playing with two cars. He will NOT share one of his cars with his friend. Is the boy who will not share shining his light . . .

Hold up finger like a shining light.

". . . or is he hiding his light?

Cover finger with opposite hand.

"You're right! He's hiding his light. How could the boy shine his light? (Pause.) Yes! He could share one of his cars. When you share with people, you shine your light . . .

Hold up finger like a shining light.

". . . so people can see that Jesus shares!

"Let's play again! A little girl needs help getting her cup off the high counter. Her older brother helps her and gives her the cup. Is the brother shining his light . . .

Hold up finger like a shining light.

". . . or hiding his light?

Cover finger with opposite hand.

"Show me with your hands. (Pause.) Right, again! He is shining his light.

Hold up finger like a shining light.

"When you help people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus helps!

"Every time you do what Jesus says, you shine your light. And Jesus says to shine your light so the world can see that Jesus loves them and He wants to be their friend forever, just like Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever!

"Raise your hand if you can do what Jesus says and shine your light.



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

Look around at the children.

"Yes! We can do what Jesus says and shine our light! So, when I ask you, '**Who can do what Jesus says?**', I want you to say, '**I can do what Jesus says!**' Let's try it! **Who can do what Jesus says?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "I can do what Jesus says!"

STORYTELLER: "Again! Who can do what Jesus says?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "I can do what Jesus says!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes, I can do what Jesus says! [Transition] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, we want to do what Jesus says. We want to shine our light so everyone can see that Jesus loves them and He wants to be their friend forever. Please help us shine. You're the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus' name, amen.

"I had so much fun with you today! Keep shining your light and I'll see you next time! Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Lantern (*from Intro*)

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! Jesus said WE are the light of the world and we can let our light SHINE! And we shine when we do what Jesus says!

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (Give two thumbs-up.) "Good!

Hold up the lantern and turn it on.

"Now every time I turn on this lantern, I will remember that I shine when I do what Jesus says! **[Transition]** "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses Small Groups and exits.