

Jesus is the Light of the World

Lesson Overview

Subject: Bible Study / Character Education

Target Age: 7 Years Old (Grade 2)

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Learning Objectives: By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Explain what Jesus meant when He said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).
- Identify three ways that light helps us in everyday life.
- Describe one way they can "shine" by showing kindness to others.

Materials Needed

- A flashlight or a small lamp
- A Bible (or a printed copy of John 8:12)
- Yellow and orange construction paper or tissue paper
- One empty, clean glass jar or a clear plastic cup
- Battery-operated tea light candle
- Glue and safety scissors
- Markers or crayons

1. Introduction: The Hook (5-10 minutes)

The Darkness Challenge: If possible, find a room that can be made dark (like a bathroom or a room with the curtains closed). Ask the student to stand in the dark for 10 seconds.

Discussion Questions:

- How did it feel when it was dark? Was it easy to see where to walk?
- (Turn on the flashlight) Now that we have light, what changed?

The Big Idea: Just like this flashlight helps us see where we are going so we don't trip, Jesus said He is the light for our hearts and our lives! He helps us see the right way to live and makes us feel safe.

2. Body: Content & Practice (20-30 minutes)

I Do: The Story (Teaching)

Read **John 8:12** together: "*Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, 'I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness. He will have the light that gives life.'*" (ICB Version)

Talking Points for 7-Year-Olds:

- **Light Shows the Way:** When we are lost, a light shows us the path. Jesus shows us how to be kind and loving.
- **Light Chases Away Fear:** Have you ever been scared of the dark? When you turn on a light, the scary shadows go away. Jesus helps us not to be afraid because He is with us.
- **Light Helps Things Grow:** Flowers need sun to grow. We need Jesus' love to grow into the best version of ourselves!

We Do: The "Light vs. Dark" Game

I am going to say an action. If it sounds like "walking in the light" (doing something good/kind), stand up and reach for the ceiling like a bright sun. If it sounds like "walking in the darkness" (doing something unkind), crouch down low.

- Helping a friend who fell down. (Light!)
- Taking a toy without asking. (Darkness)
- Telling the truth, even when it's hard. (Light!)
- Using mean words when you are angry. (Darkness)
- Sharing your snack with someone. (Light!)

You Do: The "Light-Bearer" Lantern (Hands-On Practice)

Now, we are going to make a lantern to remind us that Jesus is our light.

1. **Decorate:** Take small pieces of yellow and orange tissue paper (or construction paper). Glue them to the outside of the glass jar or plastic cup. These represent the "glow."
2. **The Verse:** On a small strip of paper, help the student write: "*Jesus is my Light.*" Glue this to the rim of the jar.
3. **The Shine:** Place the battery-operated tea light inside the jar.
4. **The Goal:** Whenever you see this lantern, remember that Jesus is helping you see the right way to act and love others.

3. Conclusion: Closure & Recap (5-10 minutes)

Summary: Today we learned that the world can sometimes feel "dark" or confusing, but Jesus is the Light of the World. He gives us peace, shows us how to be kind, and stays with us so we aren't afraid.

Success Criteria Check: Ask the student:

- What did Jesus call Himself? (The Light of the World)
- Name one thing a light does for us. (Helps us see, keeps us safe, etc.)
- What is one "bright" thing you can do today to be like a light to someone else?

Closing Prayer/Thought: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our light. Help us to follow Him and to shine His love to everyone we meet today. Amen."

Adaptability & Assessment

Formative Assessment: Observe the student during the "Light vs. Dark" game to see if they can distinguish between positive and negative behaviors.

Summative Assessment: The completed lantern and the ability to explain the meaning of John 8:12 in their own words serve as the final evaluation.

Differentiation:

- *For Advanced Learners:* Ask them to look up other verses about light (like Matthew 5:14) and compare them.
- *For Struggling Learners:* Focus purely on the physical attributes of light (warmth, visibility) and relate them to the feeling of being loved.