

## Light of the World—March 2021, Week 1

**Today's Bible Story:** When you love like Jesus, you will be a light.

Light of the World • *Matthew 5:14-16*

**Memory Verse:** "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

**Key Question:** Who can love like Jesus?

**Bottom Line:** I can love like Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### **INTRO ACTIVITY: Dancing Flashlights**

*Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts*

**What You Need:** Flashlights and dark tablecloths

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Cover tables with dark tablecloths.

*During the Activity:* Give each child a flashlight and go under the tables to make the flashlights dance. Repeat as long as desired.

*After the Activity:* Talk about how we will hear a story about being a light.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Hello, friends! We're going to play with flashlights today. To see the light better, let's go under the tables where it's dark."

*During the Activity:* "Take a flashlight and head under the table. *(Pause.)* Shine your lights on the tablecloths and not in anybody's eyes. *(Pause.)* Move the lights all around and watch them dance. *(Repeat as long as desired.)* Flip your flashlights off and come out."

*After the Activity:* "Today in our Bible story, we'll hear how Jesus says we are like a light when we love others like Him."

**VIDEO: Light of the World:** *Watch today's Bible Story Video with Pastor Robin!*

### **REVIEW ACTIVITY: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

#### **Uncover the Light**

**Live for God | Application Activity**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** Flashlights and dark tissue paper

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Sit in an open area of the room.

*During the Activity:* Give each child a flashlight and a piece of tissue. Have the children turn the flashlights on and cover it with the tissue. Say, “I can love like Jesus” and uncover the light. Repeat as long as desired.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story.

### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Friends, come sit with me on the floor. We’re going to practice shining our lights bright today.”

*During the Activity:* “Take a flashlight and turn it on. Don’t shine it in anyone’s face. *(Pause.)* Now take the tissue and cover your light. *(Pause.)* I will count to three. When I do, uncover your light and say, ‘I can love like Jesus.’ One, two, three. I can love like Jesus! *(Repeat as long as desired.)* When you cover up your light, you aren’t loving like Jesus. But when you love like Jesus, you shine your light bright.”

*After the Activity:* “Jesus wants you and me to be a light and love others like Jesus loves us. **Who can love like Jesus? [Bottom Line] I can love like Jesus.**”

## **MEMORY VERSE**

**SAY:** Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)* Today’s Bible story was about how we shine a light when we love people the way Jesus loves us. And the Bible verse we will learn will help us remember to love people the way Jesus loves us. It says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

“Love each other as I have loved you,’ John 15:12. *(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“That is Jesus talking to you and me. Jesus is telling us, ‘love each other as I have loved you.’ Let’s stand up and say that together with the motions.”

“**Love each other** *(hug yourself)*  
**as I** *(point up)*  
**have loved you,**’ *(point thumbs to chest)*  
**John 15:12.**” *(Open hands like a book.)*

*(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)*

**SAY:** “Jesus telling us to love each other as I have loved you means that we can love like Jesus! So when I ask you, ‘**Who can love like Jesus?**’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can love like Jesus!’** Get ready! **Who can love like Jesus?**”

## **JOURNAL AND PRAYER**

### **Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

*Made to Reflect:* An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

**What You Need:** Paper/Prayer Journal, and A Marker or Fun Pen

**SAY:** “Now, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“When we love like Jesus, we shine like a light. Everyone sees the love! That’s why we’re going to make a list of ways we can love like Jesus. Then, when we pray, we can ask God to help us love like Jesus. When I say your name, tell me one way you can love like Jesus, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

*(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“These are wonderful ways to love like Jesus! Let’s use this list when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

*(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

### **Prayer**

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us how to love each other. Sometimes it’s hard, but we know Jesus is with us and will help us love like He loves. Help us love others by *(read the list the children made)*. We want to be a shining light of love everywhere we go. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”