Lesson 4: Jesus Is the Light

Overview:

Key Focus: Jesus is the Light, and His Light drives away the darkness.

Bible Story: Jesus Heals the Blind Man

Scriptures: Psalm 119:105; John 1:1–9, 8:12, 9:1–7, 35–38

Memory Verse: John 8:12 (NKJV) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Flashlight or nightlight
- A desk lamp or light that can be switched on and off by a child
- A globe or inflatable world beach ball and a flashlight
- Posterboard and markers or colored pencils

Classroom Prep:

- Inside one wall of a box, use a nail to poke holes to spell "Jesus." On the opposite wall, make a inch-size hole for kids to look in the box and read the message.

Engage:

Depending on your group, you may want to have small groups with a helper make a list and then go over the answers with the whole group. **There are many different types of light. I have ten lights that someone could buy listed on my paper, and I need you to guess all of them.**

headlight on a car spotlight on a stage candle flashlight laser
refrigerator light Christmas lights camping lantern nightlight desk lamp

After all of the lights have been guessed, set the prepared box on a table with a light behind it. **All of the lights that were mentioned need batteries or electricity except a candle. A candle needs a match, but it won't burn forever. Why are lights important?** (Possible answers: Lights help us see where we are going; they keep us from being scared in the dark; they let ussee after the sun goes down.) **Today we will learn about two special lights that don't need batteries, electricity, or a match. These lights are extremely important and will guide us throughout our lives if we use them.** Hold up your Bible. **This is one of our lights and in this box is the name of the other light.** Have children line up and peek inside the box without saying the name they see. When everyone has peeked inside, give a signal for everyone to say what was written in the box (Jesus). **The box was filled with darkness, but the light entered the box through the tiny little holes so you could see the name "Jesus."** Show the tiny holes by taking off the lid. **Light is stronger than darkness, and today we will learn about how Jesus' light is the most important light in the world.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display the verse and discuss it. Have children stand in a large circle. Hand a volunteer the flashlight or nightlight. Tell that child to say the first word of the verse and pass the light to the child on the right. Continue around the circle several times with each child holding the light and saying the next word of the verse.

Memory Verse: John 8:12 (NKJV) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Bible Story:

Set out the desk lamp and explain that you will select different volunteers who are listening carefully to turn the light on/off when you say the word "light" during the lesson. Choose someone to start and after a couple of minutes, choose another volunteer and continue doing this throughout the lesson.

When I introduced today's lesson, I held up my Bible and said it is a light. If we have a storm and lose electricity, will this Bible shine? (No.) **How do you think the Bible is a light?** (The Bible is like a light guiding us about how to live.) **The Old Testament was written long before Jesus came to the earth. The book of Psalms was written by David, who fought Goliath and became king of Israel. Let's see what he said about God's Word.** Depending on your group, have everyone turn to Psalm 119:105 and read together. **King David recognized that God's Word showed him how to live. He wanted to go in the right direction. The enemy of God wants to keep people from following God. The enemy wants darkness to keep us from**

following God. David knew that if He loved God's Word and followed it, he would always have God's light.

Many hundreds of years after David, the New Testament was written and tells us something very amazing. Read John 1:1–3. **Who do you think is "the Word?"** (Jesus) **What clues tell us that Jesus is also called "the Word?"** (The verses say that He was in the beginning, He made all things, and He was with God and was God.) **The Bible is God's Word, but these verses show that Jesus is called "the Word." The next two verses will tell us a little bit more.** Read John 1:4–5. **Jesus gave life to everything and now that He had come to the earth, His life would bring God's light to everyone. In Jesus' time on the earth, the sun was the great source of light, and some people worshiped the s-u-n because they understood it was a powerful light that couldn't be explained. The scientists didn't know in Jesus' time what we know today about the sun and light. The s-u-n gives light to everyone. Jesus came to show God's light to everyone. It is wonderful that Jesus created the sun that gives light to the world, but our memory verse says that He is also called the Light of the world!** Say the memory verse together.

Let's find out who was writing about Jesus being the Word and the Light. Read John 1:6–9. **The man named John was Jesus' cousin. What do you remember we learned two lessons ago that he called Jesus?** (John said Jesus was the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world.) **We also learned that John was the person who baptized Jesus. How did people at Jesus' baptism know that John was telling the truth about Jesus?** (God's voice came from heaven and said that Jesus was His Son and He was proud of Him. The Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and rested on Jesus.) **John wanted to make sure that people understood that Jesus was the Son of God and the Son of Man. But John didn't want people confused or to think that John was the Light. John was a messenger telling people to get ready because Jesus the Light was coming so that every man could have His light.**

As an adult, one way Jesus showed His light was through doing miracles. What miracles did we learn that Jesus did in last week's Bible lesson? (Jesus calmed a storm, told the demons to leave a man, healed a woman from bleeding, and raised a dead girl back to life.) **These miracles showed that Jesus had power from God. They also showed that God loves all people and wants all people to love and worship Him. Let's read about a miracle that John wrote down for us.** Read John 9:1–5. **Back in Jesus' time, many of the sicknesses were thought to be caused by God punishing someone. We know that God is always good and that the enemy of God comes to steal, kill, and destroy.** Review last quarter's memory verse John 10:10. **We know that Jesus is the Light, so He shines the light of truth on His disciples by telling them that God was going to do a miracle in this man. Jesus' miracles always brought glory to God. Notice that in these verses, Jesus calls Himself the Light of the World. He had come all the way from heaven so people would know the way to God.**

There are many different ways that Jesus healed people. Sometimes He just spoke and people were healed, sometimes He touched them, and sometimes they touched Him. Let's see how Jesus healed this blind man. Read John 9:6–7. **What was the unusual way that Jesus**

healed the blind man? (Jesus spit on the clay, put it on the man's eyes, and told the man to wash in a certain pool. When the man did what Jesus said, he could see.) **How do you think the man reacted?** (Possible answers: shocked that he could see, amazed that it worked, thrilled that Jesus healed him) **Do you think everyone was happy for the man?** Have students vote their answers by raising their hands. **Well, John writes that the religious leaders were not happy because the miracle took place on the Sabbath day when they were to rest. The religious leaders questioned the man and even his parents. When they questioned the man a second time, he asked the religious leaders if they wanted to hear his testimony again so they could become followers of Jesus. No, the religious leaders wanted to find a reason to stop Jesus from being the Light. They wanted people to listen to them and not Jesus.**

Well, this miracle isn't finished yet. Let's read at the end of the chapter and see what happens next. Read John 9:35–38. **Think carefully about the details of the miracle. Why didn't the man recognize Jesus?** (He was blind when Jesus sent Him away to wash. When he could finally see, Jesus wasn't there.) **When the man realized that he was looking at Jesus, what did he immediately do?** (He worshiped Jesus.) **I love how Jesus did a miracle where someone who had lived in a world of darkness caused by blindness, had the Light of the World bring light to his world so that he could see.** Lead a cheer for the Light of the World. **Jesus' light showed people that sin kept them from a relationship with God. Not everyone is happy to have light shine on their sin because they don't want to change and follow God's way. But, when people believe Jesus paid for their sins, they become part of God's family and will be with Him someday in heaven. Jesus' light can guide you by reading God's Word and talking to Him. The more of Jesus' light in you; the more brightly Jesus can shine through you! When we say "yes" to follow Jesus as our Savior, He lives in us, and His light shines through us to help others know God's ways. What are some ways that you can let Jesus' light be seen in you this week?** (Possible answers: help others, tell the truth, tell people about Jesus' miracles, obey my parents)

Bible Story Questions:

- **How does God's Word act like a light and a lamp?** (God's Word shows us God's way and guides us.)
- **Does having your own Bible mean that God's light is automatically guiding you?** Guide the conversation toward understanding that the Bible needs to be read or heard and obeyed for God's light to guide.
- **In the New Testament, who was called the Word, and why?** (Jesus was called the Word because His life would guide people to God's truth and God's ways.)
- **What miracle in today's Bible story brought light to someone?** (The blind man was healed so that he could see and didn't live in darkness anymore.)
- **How have you seen Jesus' light in someone else's life?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- In a large open area, designate one child as "light" and three children as "darkness." Set a timer for one minute and as "darkness" tags people, they sit on the floor until "light" comes and tags them to get up. At the end of the minute, count how many children remain tagged by "darkness" versus untagged children by the light.

  Why were more people tagged by darkness? (There was more darkness than light.) **Sometimes you might feel like you are the only person who knows Jesus and is shining Jesus' light. If you knew you had a friend who was also shining Jesus' light, you could let more people know about Jesus.** Select two new "lights" and two new "darkness." After a minute let the "lights" talk about how it was fairer this time. Play again, but choose three "lights" and one "darkness." Point out that the more people who shine Jesus' light, the light wins over darkness.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Show the children the globe or inflatable world beach ball and a flashlight. Select one volunteer to hold the flashlight and shine it on the world. Choose another child to slowly turn the globe while all the children say, "Jesus is the Light of the World." Take turns holding the flashlight and turning the globe so that all children participate.

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Allow the children to share what they have learned about lights. Give posterboard and markers or colored pencils to each small group and have them illustrate John 8:12 or Psalm 119:105. Put the posters in the hallway and encourage the children to share the meaning of their posters with people who walk by the hall.

Worksheet:

Set out markers or colored pencils and encourage the children to think about today's lesson as they design a light switch cover to take home and tape over a light switch. Help them unscramble the words to John 8:12, and then use their Bibles to check their answers. On the back of their papers, have them write A–Z try to think of a type of light that begins with each letter of the alphabet, such as A – aquarium light, B – bulb, etc.

Affirmation/Declaration:

God's Word is a lamp to my feet so I can follow God.
Jesus is the Light of the World.
Jesus' light shines through me when I follow His ways.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
God designed us to seek Him. God's light is all around, but much darkness exists in today's world. Remind the children that together, they can shine light brightly into the darkness. Encourage them to gather with other Christians at school and in their neighborhoods to pray for people and tell others about God's love for them.

Missions Connections:
Hindu people celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. The lights lure the goddess of wealth to visit them. Pray that they will seek Jesus the Light of the World and allow His light to change the darkness of their hearts. Encourage the children to let their lights shine as they reach out to share Jesus with Indian people in their community.

Family Connection:
Today's lesson focused on how Jesus shines light (salvation) so that darkness (sin) leaves. Take a family tour of your home counting every light in the house. Don't forget the lights that come on inside appliances. Talk about how important lights are to your life and draw the conclusion that Jesus' light is more important because He shows us the way to salvation and eternal life. Take time to talk about how each family member has shown that Jesus' light is in them. Encourage each family member to talk to God and let His light guide them this week.

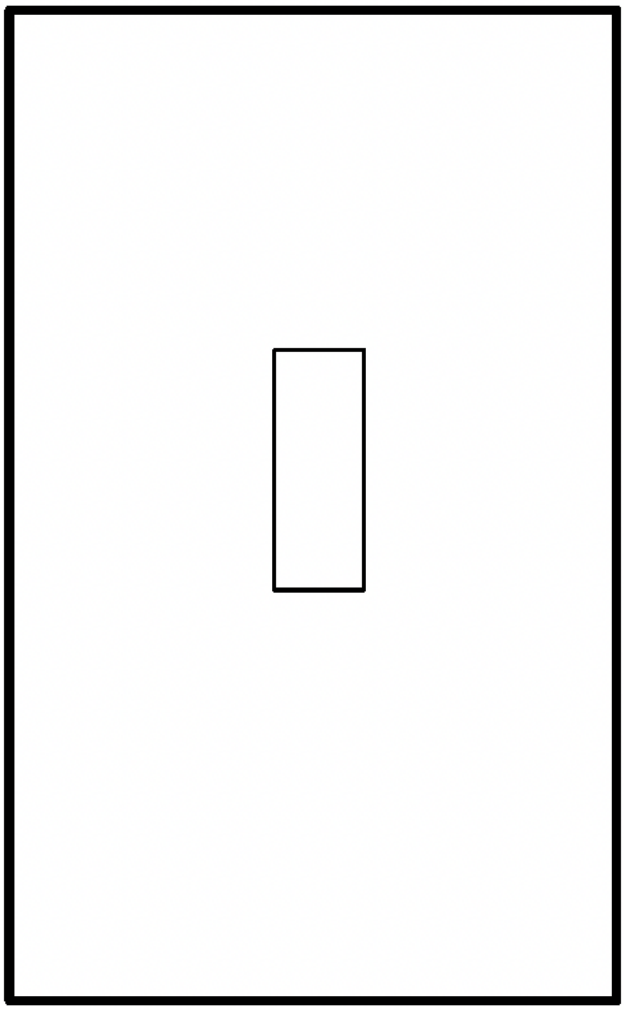
Prayer Points:
Have the children consider which of their friends need Jesus and His light in their lives. Lead a prayer and have the children repeat after you.

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Jesus, to be the Light of the World. Help my friend ___, to want Jesus' light in their life. Help me shine Your light this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

Lesson 4: Jesus Is the Light

Design a light switch cover to remind you that Jesus is the Light of the World.



Unscramble the words and check your answers by looking up John 8:12.

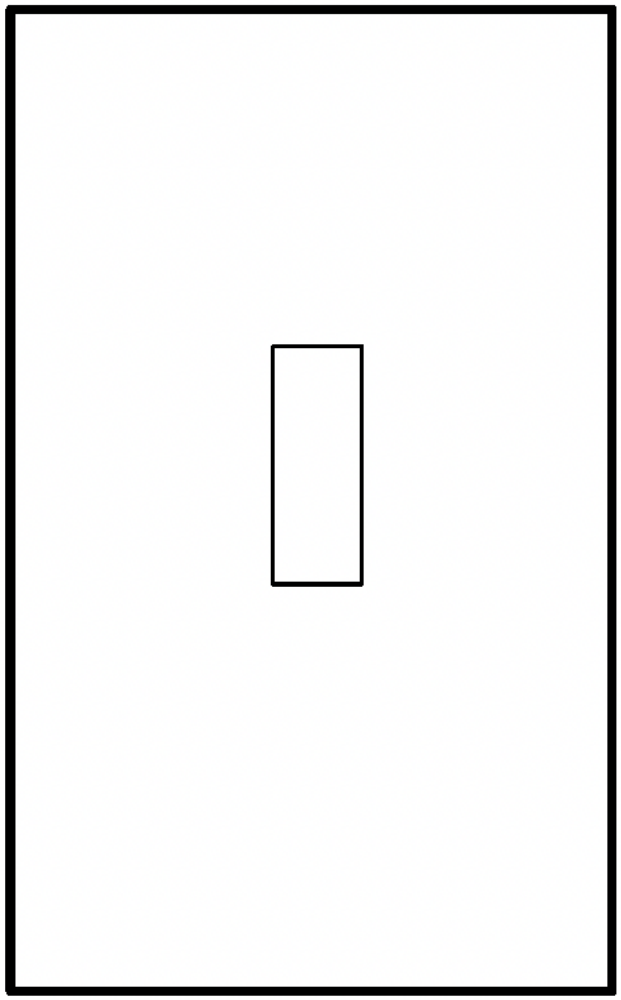
…"I am the _____(thigl) of the _____(dlorw). He who _____(sloflow) Me shall not _____(klaw) in _____(snedraks), but have the _____(glith) of _____(efil)."

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write the letters A-Z and write a type of light that begins with each letter of the alphabet.*

ANSWERS

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