

# Let Your Light Shine

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*After completing this lesson, the children learn how the Magi followed a bright star to find Jesus, and that they too can be a bright star for others to find Jesus.*

## TOPICS

Christmas, Light, Witnessing

## AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Let Your Light Shine (Puzzle) [page 3](#)

## MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

**Matthew 5:16 NIV.**

Have the kids perform the following cheer:

### Teacher or Leader

What do we let shine?  
Who do we shine it for?  
What will they see?  
Then what will they do?  
And Where is the Father?

### Kids Respond

Our light  
Others  
Our good deeds  
Glorify the Father  
Heaven

## CLASS EXERCISE (7 minutes)

The Window (Story) [page 4](#)

## SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

### Introduction:

Have a volunteer look up the word "Magi" in a Bible dictionary (pronounced May-jui) (Magi were Men of Arabia and Persia who studied the stars. Some believed they had the power to interpret dreams and for that reason today we often refer to them as wise men.)

Have you ever looked up on a clear night and tried to count all the stars? Have you ever seen a star that looked a little brighter than the rest? There is one special star in the sky even today that people follow. It's called the North star, or Polaris. What is special about this star is that it always stays in the same place and all the other stars circle it. It's called the North Star because when you look at it, you're facing north. Before fancy machinery and computers, ship captains used the North Star to navigate the oceans. They could always tell where they were by finding the North Star.

### Read Matthew 2:1-12

Have the children take turns reading a few verses.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why were the Magi looking for Jesus? *(They wanted to worship Him.)*
2. How did King Herod react to the visit by the Magi? *(He was deeply disturbed.)*
3. What did the prophets say would come out of Bethlehem? *(A ruler who will be the shepherd of Israel.)*
4. What did King Herod tell the Magi to do? *(Go find the baby and report back to him where Jesus was.)*
5. How did the Magi find where Jesus was staying? *(They followed a star.)*
6. Where were Mary and the baby when the Magi arrived? *(In a house.)*
7. What was the first thing the magi did when they found Jesus? *(They bowed down and worshipped Him.)*

## CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

Lighting up the World (Object Talk) [page 5](#)

## ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

A Shining Star (Craft) [page 6](#)

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## **APPLICATION (4 minutes)**

Jesus wants to be found. Even shortly after He was born, before He could even talk, people were able to find Him. As we learned from our lesson today, God used a star to lead the Magi to His Son, a brightly lit star. But we also learned that we too can be brightly lit stars by helping others to find Jesus. When we let our light shine by being good boys and girls, and when we do this, we choose to do right instead of wrong. As a result our neighbors, friends, schoolmates, and even perfect strangers see how different we are—they see the light inside us shine through. When we share with them the secret to our shine—that we have Jesus living in us—they can't help but also see the real light. So, let your light shine!"

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## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

*(Cross-out) After crossing out certain words, a bright message from Matthew 5:16 appears.*

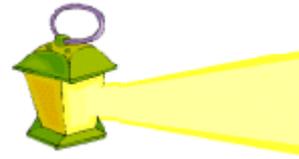
### TOPICS:

Light, Morality, Witnessing, Works

### MATERIALS:

Cross-out puzzle for each child [PDF] [page 7](#) Answer [page 8](#)

Highlighters or markers



### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Give each child a pencil or a marker and a copy of the cross-out puzzle. Remind the children that it is important to act and speak in ways that show we belong to Jesus. After completing this puzzle, the children will learn that they should let their lights shine before men, that they may see their good works and glorify God in Heaven.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How can we be like a bright light to the world? *(By doing good works cheerfully and because we love Jesus.)*
2. Why is it important that the world see our lights shine? *(To glorify God.)*
3. Is letting your light shine more than just doing good works? Explain. *(Allow for discussion.)*

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## THE WINDOW (A CHRISTMAS POEM)

*A poem about a brilliant light in the night showing the way to the newborn king.*

### TOPICS:

Birth of Christ, Christmas

### DURATION:

Approximately 7 minutes

Looking out my window late one night,  
What I saw was such a strange and unexpected sight.  
Never have I seen before such brilliance in the sky,  
Right outside my bedroom, was a warm and glowing light.

I tried to fall asleep again, but the light stayed on my mind.  
The mystery seemed to fill the world with never-ending time.  
What could it mean to see such brilliance in the sky tonight?  
Somehow, I knew I was seeing a heavenly sight.

So I gazed some more and while I did, I saw there were three men.  
They were pointing up and saying something about a newborn king.  
I sensed they also saw the light, as it pierced the sky,  
Then together, in a hurry, they rode quietly on by.

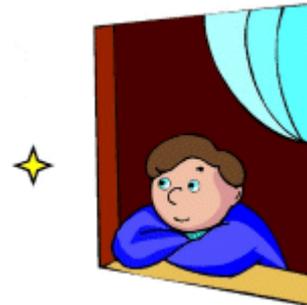
I was looking out my window, late that night.  
How wonderful, how glorious a light shining so bright,  
Who could know what blessings such a light like that would bring?  
It led the world to our Lord, Savior, and King.

I hurried and found my shoes, then threw on some clothes.  
I followed silently behind, to see where they would go.  
They stopped at one small house and then quietly went in,  
As the light grew even brighter, and the nighttime air grew thin.

I had to see for myself what was happening inside.  
So I went up to the window, and peered in with widened eyes.  
I saw him, a child, asleep by mommy's side,  
Then the men bowed down to Him; all I could do was cry.

As I wiped the tears away, the young boy came awake.  
His mother quietly said, "My child, it's okay."  
As I wondered how deeply in trouble I might be,  
He looked out from His window, and gently smiled at me.

I was looking out my window, late that night.  
How wonderful, how glorious a light shining so bright,  
Who could know what blessings such a light like that would bring.  
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## LIGHTING UP THE WORLD

*A short illustration about lighting up the world, one match at a time.*

### TOPICS:

Light, Serving, Witnessing

### MATERIALS:

A large match for best affect  
(see preparation)

### DURATION:

Approximately 5 minutes

### PREPARATION:

You can easily make a large match by taking a stick or straw and gluing red yarn on one end to form a tight little ball.



### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will compare a match to being one of God's Children. A match is used to light something that is more important and as God's children we are used to reach others for Jesus and light up the world.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Everyone knows what this is, a match. Now what would you do with a match? (Allow for answers). That is right. I could use this match to light a fire in the fireplace, or a campfire that everyone can gather around and sing songs. I might use it to light a candle, or to start up a stove to cook a tasty meal.

Once I use this match, what good is it then? A match can only be used one time. After that, it is not good for anything. The only reason we have a match, is to light or start something else that is much more important to us.

We are sort of like this match. Our lives are very short on this earth. We are only "lit up" for a little while. The question is, what do we do with our short lives?

As God's children, we must use the time he gives us to "light up" the world for Jesus. We can do this by sharing the Word of God to everyone we meet who does not know Jesus. We can do this by serving others in His name, and by praying for all who need Him. When we do this, the light continues on and on and grows brighter and brighter.

However, if we remain silent, it would be like striking a match and letting it burn out without doing anything good with it. (Imitate striking the match and then blowing it out.) What a waste!

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## A SHINING STAR

*A craft children can hang up in their room or their Christmas tree.*

### TOPICS:

Christmas, Light, Witnessing

### MATERIALS:

Fun Foam\*  
Star Template [PDF] [page 9](#)  
Permanent Markers or Pens  
Glitter, Glue, Ribbons  
Scissors

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

One week ahead of time, ask parents to bring a small picture of their child to the next class. Explain that the face of the child will be cut out from the picture, and the children will be using them to make an ornament in class. If pictures are not available, stickers or faces cut out from magazines will also work.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have the kids use light colored Fun Foam to cut out one or more stars using the star template. Then punch a hole at the end of one point and tie a ribbon through the hole making a loop to hang the star. The children can then cut out their face from the picture and glue it to the center of the star. Have them add glitter to the edge of the star.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

As believers in Jesus, we should shine for Him. This way people who don't know Jesus can find Him by our shining light. The Bible says: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

*\* Fun Foam can be purchased at most Arts & Craft stores, or you can substitute construction paper.*



# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

**Instructions:**

First cross out all words that are days of the week

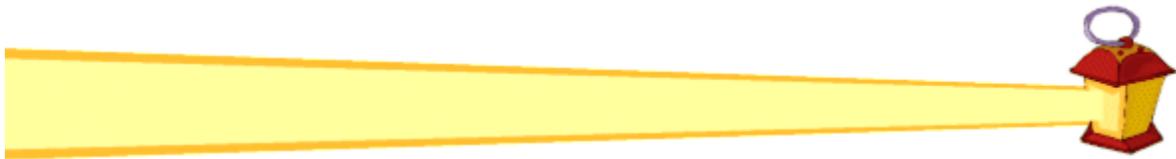
Second cross out all words that are colors

Third cross out all words that are names of animals

Fourth cross out all words that are numbers



SUNDAY	BROWN	SEVEN	LET	PIG	WHITE	SIXTEEN
THREE	YOUR	TURTLE	GOLD	EIGHT	LIGHT	FRIDAY
SHINE	HORSE	FOUR	RED	BEFORE	TUESDAY	ORANGE
PURPLE	OTHERS	WEDNESDAY	ALLIGATOR	FIVE	THAT	FIFTY
RACCOON	THEY	FROG	BLUE	MAY	MONDAY	TWO
THIRTEEN	GREEN	SEE	THURSDAY	NINETEEN	SNAKE	YOUR
SATURDAY	GOOD	SQUIRREL	DEEDS	SUNDAY	TIGER	AND
GLORIFY	YOUR	PINK	TUESDAY	YELLOW	FATHER	BLACK
BEAR	IN	FRIDAY	HEAVEN	GIRAFFE	FIVE	WEDNESDAY



What do the remaining words say? Write them in order on the lines below.

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**Matthew 5:16 NIV**

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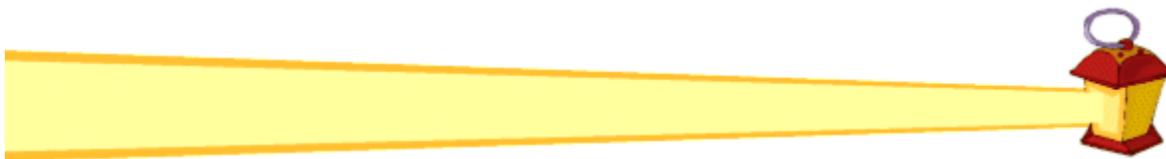
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What do the remaining words say? Write them in order on the lines below.

Let your light shine before others that

they may see your good deeds and

glorify your Father in heaven.

**Matthew 5:16 NIV**

