



Let Your Light Shine

MAIN IDEA

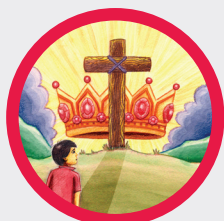
- **Jesus' disciples are to be like lights that shine and draw attention to the greatness and worth of Jesus.**
- **We should look for opportunities to do good deeds and speak words of hope.**

MEMORY VERSE

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
—Matthew 5:16

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 5:14-16
- 2) John 14:15-17a
- 3) Ephesians 5:8-9
- 4) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 5) 1 Peter 2:9



LESSON SUMMARY

In Philippians, Paul gives us this exhortation:

...be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life...—Philippians 2:15-16a

Our children are growing up in a crooked and twisted generation. In the West, the foundations and institutions of civil government and society that once, at least outwardly, affirmed Judeo-Christian values, are now increasingly hostile to even the most basic of those values. Yet, we are called to shine as lights—standing out, exposing darkness, declaring truth by holding fast to the Word of Life. This will not be an easy road for our children to follow but, nonetheless, it is what Christ commands His disciples: "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16).

In this lesson, we not only explored the meaning of this command, but also offered the students practical examples by posing a variety of situations in which they could let their light shine before men.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that, by God's sovereign grace, your child would be part of God's chosen race, proclaiming the excellencies of Christ to this generation.*
- *that your child would grow in boldness and wisdom, seeking to be God's truth-shiner to a dark world.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read 1 Peter 2:9. **What are some "excellencies" that describe Jesus and what He has done?** Make a list of as many attributes of God as you can think of. Also, encourage your child to recall specific mighty deeds of God, especially His saving work done through Jesus dying on the cross for sinners. **Do you ever proclaim the excellencies of Jesus? In what ways? If you don't proclaim His excellencies, what hinders you?** Pray about your child's response.
- Read and talk about Matthew 5:14-16 and Ephesians 5:8-9. Emphasize that people cannot "shine their light" apart from first

trusting in Jesus for salvation. For a Christian, what is to be the goal and purpose of letting your light shine before others? How is this at odds with wanting ourselves to be the center of attention? Give your child an example of how to direct attention Godward instead self-ward in a specific situation. Why is it much more important for others to see Jesus instead of merely us?


- Point out that many people who are not Christians do what most people would consider “good works”—things like feeding the poor, helping the sick, caring for those with needs, etc. How can a Christian do something in a way that intentionally shows off and points to the greatness and worth of Jesus? Suppose you help your mom make some soup for a sick

neighbor. Is there something you could do that would point your neighbor to the goodness of Jesus? [e.g., send a note with the soup that includes a Bible verse and/or saying that you are praying for her] Can you think of other kinds of examples?

- Talk about some things that may hinder Christians from drawing attention to Jesus. For example, why might it be difficult to speak up in class about something you know is not true? Should you be surprised if some people don’t like to hear the truth of God? Why not? Is there anything you can do to overcome these kinds of fears? What help has God given to His children? Review 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and John 14:15-17a.

ACTION STEPS

This week, with your parents’ help, think of a situation you have experienced recently in which you failed to shine the light of Jesus. Talk together about why you did not do it. What hindered you? Next, think of some biblical examples and/or a few verses that would serve to encourage you when faced with a similar situation in the future.

<p>SITUATION</p>	<p>HOW I RESPONDED AND FAILED TO SHINE A LIGHT ON JESUS</p> 
<p>BIBLE EXAMPLES AND/OR VERSES TO HELP ME NEXT TIME</p>	<p>NEXT TIME, I COULD SHINE A LIGHT ON JESUS BY...</p> 