

**Focus:** We are the light of the world

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD: Bible Songs for Kids – Vol 2  
Gospel: The Children's Bible Storybook  
Flashlight-Basket  
Light and Darkness Signs (use blue tape to put by window and bathroom door.)

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about when Jesus was brought to the temple to be blessed by God and recalled our becoming members of the church at our baptism. This week Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world so that we can shine Jesus' light on others.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*God of Light, let your light shine through our good and loving actions. In the name of Jesus we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Get On Board Little Children*, track: 4, from [Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2](#)

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

*The gospel train is comin'  
The wheels go 'round and 'round  
Everyone is happy  
This train is heaven bound*

*Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
There's room for many a-more*

*I hear that train a-comin'  
Comin' down the track  
I'll be getting on it  
And I won't be lookin' back*

*Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
Get on board little children*

*There's room for many a-more*

*You won't need a penny  
To ride this glorious train  
Just give your heart to Jesus  
And ride away with Him*

*Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
There's room for many a-more*

*Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
Get on board little children  
There's room for many a-more  
There's room for many a-more...*

### Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*You are the salt of the earth.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *We make the world a special place by being kind and generous to others. This helps build the kingdom of God and keeps the world a kinder place to live. Just like salt helps bring out the good flavor in foods we let God's goodness shine in us and we help bring out the goodness in others.*

### Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

**Read:** The Children's Bible Storybook, pp. pg. 242, *Do You Know How to Be Salt?*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion Starters:

- *Why does Jesus say we are the salt of the earth?*
- *Can only the strong and powerful people change the world?*
- *What kind of people can change the world into a better place?*
- *What happens when people let their light shine in the world?*
- *How can Jesus' followers give glory to God by showing them what God is like?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells his followers to let their light shine. By following Jesus' new commandment to love one another the disciples bring light into the darkness. Their love and goodness help to change the world.*

*When we care for the poor and the sick we allow God's light to shine in their lives. God's love changes the world. Followers of Jesus are called to spread the light of God's love and make the world a better place.*

## Gospel Activity

### Activity 1:

Ask: *Has anyone ever told you that you look like your mom or dad?*

*Just by looking others can tell that we look like someone in our family. When we are baptized we become members of God's family. Members of God's family do good things just like God. People can tell, by seeing the good we do, that we are members of God's family. God's goodness shines through.*

Help the children see that the light we received at baptism is the life of Christ within us. This is the light that others must see—that Christ lives in us. This was symbolized in the baptismal candle. We received the light of Christ at our baptism, and now we can be light for others. Others will see our light shining when they see the good works we do.

Show the children the flashlight. Ask them what they would use it for? (to see better)

Cover the light with the basket. Does it help them to see any more? This is why Jesus says that we must shine for others to see. So we can show them the good things Jesus taught us and Jesus tells us that we have what we need to make that happen. The light is already in us. We use the light to make the world better.

### Activity 2:

The Light and the Dark (a variation of red light/green light)-optional-Play "This Little Light of Mine." Track 15 America's 25 Favorite

Instruct the children to move either to the right side of the room (toward the window –the light) or left side (toward the bathroom –the dark) when a choice is called out.

Some examples of choices that reflect light: helping someone who is sad, saying thank you, telling the truth, saying I'm sorry, praying, making a card for someone who is sick, going to church, etc.

Some examples of choices that reflect darkness: staying angry, lying, holding a grudge, refusing to share, teasing someone at school, taking something without permission, making a fuss when you have to clean up your toys, etc.

Mix up the choices so that the children can move from one side of the room to the other.

Discuss:

- Who helps you to make good choices?
- How can you help others make good choices?
- How does Jesus help us to make good choices?

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

## Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who helps us show others his love?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who wants us to let our light shine for the glory of God?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to be the salt of the earth?*

**Sending Forth**

*Say: Remember to let your light shine this week. Let everyone see that you are a child of God and let His love shine all around by helping others and loving others, even if they are hard to love.*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play “*All Things Bright and Beautiful*” track 16 from Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2 while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.