

Life of Christ
from the gospel of
John

Lesson 24

**Jesus is the
Light of the World**

John 8:1-30

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Created for use with young, unchurched learners • Adaptable for all ages including adults

Life of Christ

Jesus Is the Light of the World

John 8:1-30

Younger Verse

I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark. John 8:12 (AMP)

Older Verse

[Jesus] said, I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the Light which is Life. John 8:12 (AMP)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Have you ever tried to walk through your house with the lights off? Did you stub your toe or run into a wall? In our story from the Bible this week, Jesus talks about not walking around in the dark any longer. Let's check it out!

Last week we talked about some of the people around Jesus. The Jewish leaders thought He was a liar; the people believed in Him and trusted Him. The next day, early in the morning, Jesus went to the temple. Many people began to gather around Him and He taught them. While Jesus was teaching, the leaders interrupted Him. The leaders had brought in a woman whom they caught breaking the law. They said, "In the Old Testament, Moses said that this woman should die. What do you say?" They did this to test Jesus, to see what He would say. They wanted a reason to arrest Him, too. Jesus knew that this woman had not been alone in breaking the law and He also knew what the law really said.¹ The law said that both of these people should die, having rocks thrown at them, but these church leaders only brought in this woman, not both of the people. Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dirt with His finger. When the men would not leave Him alone, Jesus stood back up and said to them, "The one of you who has never sinned can be the first to throw a rock at her." Jesus stooped back down, writing with His finger and an amazing thing began to happen. From the oldest to the youngest, the leaders began to walk away. When Jesus stood up again, He told the woman to go and sin no more.

The crowd that had formed before the Jewish leaders came and interrupted Jesus was still there. They saw all that took place. They saw the leaders come with only one of two people who had broken the law. They heard the leaders talk about only part of a law from the Bible

¹ See John 8:4-5 contrasted with Lev 20:10 and Deut. 22:22

Lesson Goals

Introduce Jesus as the Light of the World.
Introduce the fact that we, too, can be light.

which they had studied and should have known. And then they heard Jesus say, “I am the Light of the World. He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the Light which is Life.” Again, Jesus said something unusual, something we might never expect. What does “light” have to do with this woman who broke the law or with these leaders who wanted to trap Jesus?

Living a life of breaking the law, as well as reading and studying the Bible without having a friendship with God, and making up your own rules are both ways of walking in the dark. Jesus is the Light of the World. Just like a room without a lamp or windows is dark, the world is a dark place spiritually without God. When people are “in the dark” spiritually, they do all sorts of things because they don’t know the God who makes a difference. But He can help us see things more clearly when we choose to follow Him.

Jesus told them that unless they believed that He was God, they would die in their sins. The Jewish leaders refused to believe that Jesus was God. They continued to believe that Jesus was a liar. And as much as they disagreed with Him, they did nothing to Him because it wasn’t His time to die, yet.² Jesus said something amazing. Jesus even talked about *how* He would die. He told the people that when they “lifted Him up”³ (like they would do on the cross), then they would know He was from God.

And you? Do you know; will you believe that Jesus is from God? Have you seen how He can bring light to a dark place? If you haven’t, let’s talk; and if you have, then He wants you to be light in a dark place as well! In Matthew 5, the Bible tells us that if you believe in Him, “You are the light of the world . . . Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” You can let other people know about Jesus because of the way you act and the way you talk and by the good things you do! Will you ask Jesus to help you do that for Him?

Make candles out of toilet paper tubes or card stock. Attach them to a small paper plate. Write the memory verse on paper to be wrapped around the tube.

Pray, thanking God for sending His Son to light our way to Him. Ask for His help to light the way for the people around you who walk in darkness.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 25
The Truth Will Make You Free
John 8:31-59

² John 8:20

³ John 8:28

Memory Verse Activities

Prayer Time

Preschool Lesson

Light of the World

Sing: "This Little Light of Mine"

When you go outside during the day, where does the light come from? The sun! So, do you think the sun is the light of the world? Well, it lights our little part of the world, but where does the sun get its light? Who made the sun?

Well, if you will remember our very first lesson from the book of John, we learned that Jesus was with God in the very beginning. And in the beginning, God and Jesus were creating the heavens and the earth. Part of that creation was our sun. And John tells us in our story from the Bible that Jesus is the Light of the world! Jesus, the One who created the sun to give light to the earth came to the earth to show us what God is like. He came, like a flashlight, to light the way to God. Do you know God? If you know Jesus, you know God. But how can you know Jesus? You can know Jesus by being here at church. In church we learn many things about Jesus. One day you will have the opportunity to choose to follow Jesus.

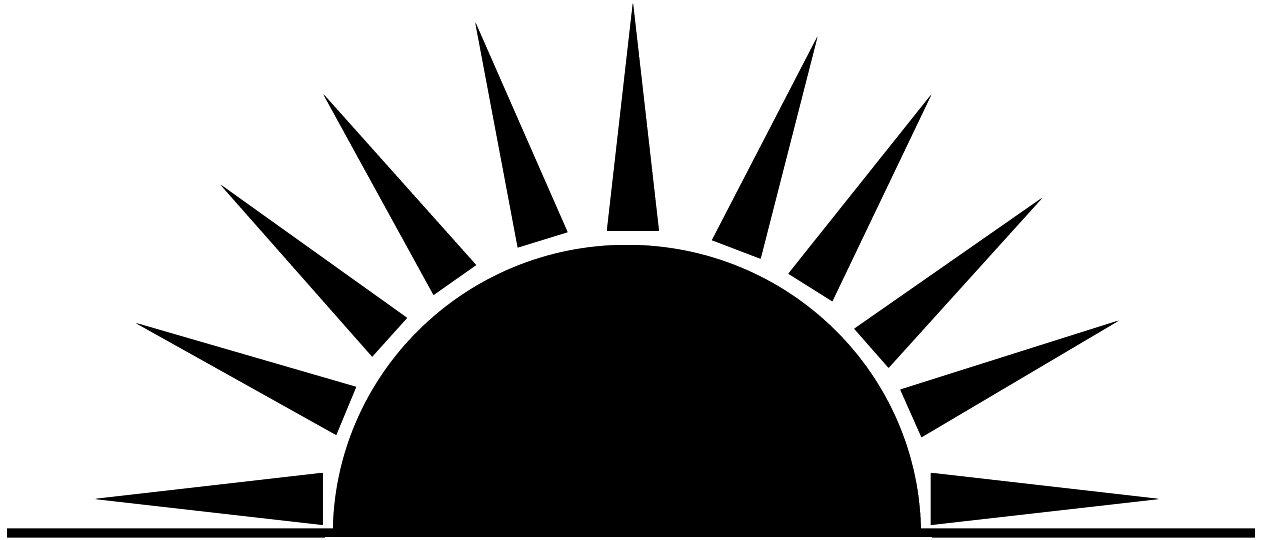
When we choose to follow Jesus, we can be little flashlights for God. We can be like Jesus. And when we are like Jesus, we can light the way to God.

Sing: "This Little Light of Mine," again.

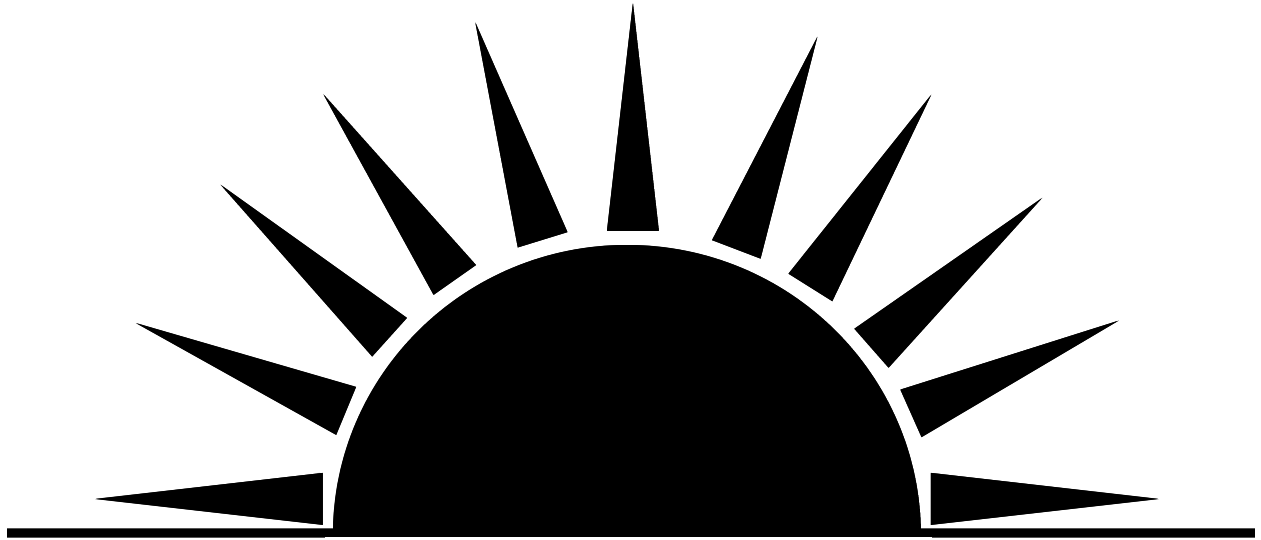
Pray: Thank you, God, for sending Jesus. Thank you for showing us how to walk in the light!

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Sing “Here I am to Worship,” “This Little Light of Mine” or “Walk, Walk, Walk, Walk in the Light.”
- Blindfold your students, one at a time, and allow the other students to give them directions to a certain area of your Bible Study space. Help each blindfolded student with verbal directions of how many steps to take in each direction. When all have had a chance, talk to them about the difficulty of the task. Talk about how hard it is sometimes to make the right decisions, to do the right thing. Reinforce the truth that Jesus is the Light of the World. If we walk with Him, we won’t be walking around in the dark.
- Make a flashlight! This can be done with simple materials. Instructions are available on the internet.
- Provide lighthouse pictures and/or coloring pages and talk about lighthouses. They are constructed to give light. They are put in places where there is danger in darkness. Each gives its own signal, to distinguish one from the other. They have saved many lives. Compare lighthouses to Jesus, ultimately, but also to each of us, to give saving light in a dangerous place.
- If it is possible to block out light in your Bible study space, do so for the following “experiment.” You’ll need: a flashlight, a piece of black construction paper and a piece of white construction paper. First, shine your flashlight on the black paper. Light is visible, but dim. Then, shine your flashlight on the white paper. Repeat this several times, if necessary, for your students to see the difference. Discuss how much more light was reflected off of the white paper. Also, discuss the similarities between us and the paper. If we are “white and pure” and have been cleaned-up by God, the light will reflect from us. Others will be able to see God better because of us. If we are still “dark” with sin, we may keep others from being able to see God.



**I am
the Light of the world.
He who follows Me
will not
be walking in the dark.
John 8:12**



**[Jesus] said,
I am the Light of the world.
He who follows Me
will not
be walking in the dark,
but will have
the Light which is Life.
John 8:12**

Word Search

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Jesus Is the Light of the World

D I F E Q C D H R Y U Q G T S
L W V R H Q T A Q D Q I O U H
G O O O R D I L E C K F S K I
V N I M R E Y X C S W E I C N
N S I O A N D S G I J T N O E
T H Z N S N Z A N C A G N R Y
J A B N M I S Z T Y K P O T O
N M G I F S J C W V M R E S U
N S I S G R D S G E F T L R R
D L R O W E H T F O T H G I L
Y X B G S V F I O U O R K F I
K B R O K E L A W G Q S F I G
J E O G J N A R I G D Z M W H
B A K Y V O E H S H S P G T T
D E E I A W T Z E H X A Q A Q

WOMAN

BROKE LAW

NEVER SINNED

FIRST ROCK

GO, SIN NO MORE

JESUS

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

LIFE

SHINE YOUR LIGHT

Word Search

Jesus Is the Light of the World

D	I	F	E	Q	C	D	H	R	Y	U	Q	G	T	S
L	W	V	R	H	Q	T	A	Q	D	Q	I	O	U	H
G	O	O	O	R	D	I	L	E	C	K	F	S	K	I
V	N	I	M	R	E	Y	X	C	S	W	E	I	C	N
N	S	I	O	A	N	D	S	G	I	J	T	N	O	E
T	H	Z	N	S	N	Z	A	N	C	A	G	N	R	Y
J	A	B	N	M	I	S	Z	T	Y	K	P	O	T	O
N	M	G	I	F	S	J	C	W	V	M	R	E	S	U
N	S	I	S	G	R	D	S	G	E	F	T	L	R	R
D	L	R	O	W	E	H	T	F	O	T	H	G	I	L
Y	X	B	G	S	V	F	I	O	U	O	R	K	F	I
K	B	R	O	K	E	L	A	W	G	Q	S	F	I	G
J	E	O	G	J	N	A	R	I	G	D	Z	M	W	H
B	A	K	Y	V	O	E	H	S	H	S	P	G	T	T
D	E	E	I	A	W	T	Z	E	H	X	A	Q	A	Q

WOMAN	BROKE LAW	NEVER SINNED
FIRST ROCK	GO, SIN NO MORE	JESUS
LIGHT OF THE WORLD	LIFE	SHINE YOUR LIGHT

Word Search
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Light of the World

B R S U N Y R S S Y
Y U W H I J E S U S
N O P R A Y I E V E
J L I G H T R H E S
G O R P E J E S U S
P E W O R L D H E O
P U W E P J E S H K
B J U G S H I N E E
U T U N O W R O N G
G Y O U S E F E Y S

SUN
WORLD

JESUS
SHINE

LIGHT
YOU

Word Search
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Light of the World

B	R	S	U	N	Y	R	S	S	Y
Y	U	W	H	I	J	E	S	U	S
N	O	P	R	A	Y	I	E	V	E
J	L	I	G	H	T	R	H	E	S
G	O	R	P	E	J	E	S	U	S
P	E	W	O	R	L	D	H	E	O
P	U	W	E	P	J	E	S	H	K
B	J	U	G	S	H	I	N	E	E
U	T	U	N	O	W	R	O	N	G
G	Y	O	U	S	E	F	E	Y	S

SUN
WORLD

JESUS
SHINE

LIGHT
YOU