

Jesus' identity



Bible verses:

John 8:12-20

Jesus is the Light of the World



Aim:

To explore a claim that Jesus made about himself



Today's fruit:

Kindness



In today's session we learn more about who Jesus is.

Jesus described himself as 'the light of the world', but the Pharisees did not want to listen to what he had to say. Today we will explore what Jesus meant and how we can share the light of Jesus with everyone we meet.

Jesus wanted to bring light to the world. We can do so through his fruit of kindness to those we meet.

Each child will need:

- Resources to make a lighthouse – see Action it
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Memory verse poster from Session One
- Today's fruit sign: *Kindness*



Start it

Say:

In our Bible story today Jesus describes himself as the 'light of the world'. Before we discover more about what he meant, let's see how much you know about light.

Watch the clip together and use the quiz to see how much the children can remember about light.

Video

What is Light? Curriculum by Tigtag uploaded by Twig Science Reporter (2:14)

Quiz

1. What is light? **A form of energy**
2. What happens when we turn on a torch [flashlight]? **It sends out beams of light / it emits light**
3. How does light travel? **In straight lines**
4. How do we see things? **The light reflects/bounces off objects so that we can see them**
5. What is our biggest light source? **The sun**

Ask:

What other fascinating facts do you know about light?



Sing it

Say:

In our Bible story today Jesus describes himself as the 'light of the world'. Our song takes that idea and imagines that Jesus is our lighthouse, guiding us safely through life.

Song

'My Lighthouse' (Hand Motions) (Official Music Video) by Rend Co Kids (4:08)



Tell it

Ask:

Do you prefer night or day, darkness or light? Explain your answer.

Say:

When we are in the dark, it can be easy to get lost. Sometimes it can even feel a little bit scary. Once we turn on the light, we often see things differently. In our Bible story Jesus uses light as a way to describe himself.

Read:

'Later, Jesus talked to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness. He will have the light that gives life.'"

(John 8:12 ICB)

Ask:

What do you think Jesus meant when he described himself as ‘the light of the world’?

Say:

The Pharisees – the scholars and community leaders – who listened to Jesus did not believe that he was God’s son. They questioned everything that Jesus had to say. Watch the clip to find out what happened.

Video

Daily Gospel Reading Video St John 8:12-20 by The Lumo Project uploaded by WOG (The Word of God) (1:53)

Ask:

Why didn’t the Pharisees believe what Jesus was saying?

Say:

The Pharisees did not believe Jesus because they saw him as a man rather than the Son of God. They did not see him as the light of the world and could not believe that he was God. Jesus told the Pharisees that he was sent by God the Father.

Read:

‘They asked, “Where is your father?”

‘Jesus answered, “You don’t know me or my Father. But if you knew me, then you would know my Father, too.” Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the Temple. He was near the place where the money that the people give is kept. But no one arrested him. The right time for Jesus had not yet come.’

(John 8:19-20 ICB)

Say:

The Pharisees carefully followed God’s laws and regularly attended the Temple for worship. Despite all of this, Jesus told them that they did not know God the Father.

Ask:

How do you think the Pharisees reacted to Jesus saying they did not know God?

Say:

From Jesus’ point of view, the Pharisees were living in darkness. Although they followed the laws of the Old Testament, they were unable to see that Jesus had come to show them a new way to live. They could not see that when they were looking at Jesus, they were looking at God.

Ask:

- What does Jesus mean when he says that people are living in darkness?
- When we are in darkness, we might come to harm or knock into obstacles. How does Jesus

act as our light in this world?

Say:

Jesus guides us through his light, helping us to see our way through the darkness of this world.

Action it

Say:

In our song Jesus is described as a lighthouse leading us safe to shore. To help you remember that Jesus is the light of the world, you are going to create your own lighthouse.

The children are going to create their own lighthouse and add the words 'Jesus is the Light of the World'.

Suggested lighthouse craft

- *Paper cup lighthouse* by Baker Ross

Resources: a paper cup, a clear plastic cup, a white pen or a contrasting colour if the paper cup is white, a black permanent marker pen, a battery-operated tealight

- *Light House Art for Kids* by Easy Peasy and Fun

Resources: a canvas board / cardboard base, paint and brushes, a cardboard tube (eg a paper towel tube - do not use a toilet tube because of hygiene issues), scissors, black pen, PVA glue, yellow paper

- Paint a lighthouse picture

Resources: Paper, paint and brushes

Look for creative ways the children can add the words 'Jesus is the Light of the World'. For example write the words in a light beam, on a ribbon of paper, in a cloud, around a base, on the lighthouse ...

Pray it

Say:

We will be using our memory verse for this month in each of our prayer times together. It reminds us that whatever emotions we are feeling, we can bring them to God.

Display the memory verse and read it through together.

Memory verse

**'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.
Listen to me now.
Hear what I say.'**

(Psalm 17:6 ICB)

Say:

Today we are calling to God to help us to share his light with others.

Display the *Kindness* sign.

Discuss with the children how we can show the light of Jesus to others through acts of kindness. Ask each child to think of one way they can shine the light of kindness into the lives of others this week. To bring the session to a close, sing 'This Little Light of Mine' and pray with the group that they will show the light of Jesus to everyone they meet this week.

Song

'This Little Light of Mine' featuring music by Stellar VBS Group Publishing by Lifetree Kids (2:21)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Jesus' identity

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
John 8:12-20



Aim:
To explore a claim that Jesus made about himself



Today's fruit:
Kindness



Draw

Use the clip to help you draw a picture of a lighthouse. Add the Bible verse from John 8:12 to your picture to remind you that Jesus is the light of the world.

How to draw a Lighthouse by Art for Kids Hub



Share

Watch the clip with the people at home and play the suggested game.

I AM the Light of the World Children's Talk by TheBibleApplied



Song for the week

'My Lighthouse' (Hand Motions) (Official Music Video) by Rend Co Kids (4:08)



Memory verse

'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.
Listen to me now.
Hear what I say.'

(Psalm 17:6 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

Jesus' identity



Bible verses:
John 8:12-20



Aim:
To know Jesus is 'the light of the world'



Today's fruit:
Kindness



Memory verse

'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.
Listen to me now.
Hear what I say.'

(Psalm 17:6 *ICB*)



Sing It

'Great big God!' Vineyard Kids, Vineyard
Worship UK and Ireland (2:51)

'Jesus Song' by Saddleback Kids (2:45)
This song tells us about the amazing things
Jesus did.



Start it

Gather a range of light sources. Discuss
with the children how they are used – and
what it would be like if you didn't use them.
Establish safety rules, eg not shining in eyes,
before letting them use them – if appropriate.

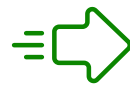


Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of John 8:12-20.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share
together:

- What is good about daytime or nighttime?
- What would it be like if we lived in darkness?
- Who helps you to make good choices?
- What type of lights are in your house or your room?
- How do you find your way to places?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible
passage:

Play follow-the-leader as a group.

- With your eyes closed, follow the instructions from a partner to reach a target in the room.
- Find a mystery object by getting warmer/cooler – or lighter/darker.
- Pretend to be the sun – what noises and movements will you make?
- Walking only in straight lines – just like light.
- Do drama actions for when we visit hot places: put on a hat, put on suncream, swim in the sea, eat an ice cream.