



Today's Bible Story: Where You Lead (Salt and Light) • **Matthew 5:13-16**

Today's Bottom Line: God created you to share His story.

Memory Verse: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14

Life App:— Identity—Knowing who God made us to be

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Read **Matthew 5:13-16**
- *For older kids, work through the passages of scripture— spend time engaging in the passages with the kids. Think of questions you can ask them as you read these verses (Who, what, when, where, why how questions)*
- **Discuss** some ways the salt is an illustration of sharing God's story with others.
 - In what ways are Jesus followers like salt?
 - How are they like light?
 - If each grain of salt represented a person who needs to hear God's story, how is this experiment an illustration of the following statement: "God created you to share His story."
 - When you think of spreading the story of Jesus by sharing it with others, what are some ways you see yourself able to do that?
 - We talk to others about the things that are important to us. Why do we sometimes have a hard time talking about God or our church?
- **Challenge** your group to think about ways they can be salt and light.
 - Who do you know that needs to hear God's story?
 - Given the opportunity, how would you *show* someone what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus? What would you *tell* them?
- **Encourage** everyone to look for creative ways to use their gifts to shine for Jesus this week.

2. Salt of the Earth

What You Need: Cardstock, white glue, table salt, baking dish or plastic container, liquid watercolor paint, brushes

What You Do:

- Explore what Jesus meant when He said, "You are the salt of the earth." You can use the conversation guide below for ideas.
- Give each kid a piece of cardstock and set out the glue.
 - Be sure the nozzles are opened just enough for the glue to flow freely, but not so much that it pours out.
- Invite kids to "draw" with the glue by squeezing it over their papers. Be creative!
- When each kid finishes, help them lay their creation in the container.
- Lead them to sprinkle the glue with salt until it's completely covered.
- Help them gently tip their paper to allow the excess salt to fall off.

- Show kids how they can dip a brush into the watercolor then gently touch the brush to their salt-covered glue design.

What You Say:

When kids add salt to their artwork: “When Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth, He meant that just like salt can make food taste better, we can make life better. We can make it better by spreading God’s love to the people around us.”

When kids add watercolor to their designs: “Wow! That’s amazing! The salt soaked up the color and spread it! That reminds me of what Jesus said: You are the salt of the earth. Just like the salt soaked up the color, God wants us to soak up His love and spread it to the people around us. Because when we spread God’s love, we share His story!”

“What’s something that you’re good at that you can use to share God’s story with others? *(I like to bake with my grandma. We can bake cookies and give them away. I can help the other kids on my team. I can draw a picture for my friend when she’s sad.)* Great ideas! **[Bottom Line] God created you to share His story.** So, when you follow Jesus by loving God and loving others, your life can share His Story in everything you say and do.

3. God’s Story is Worth Sharing

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Invite** kids to take turns sharing funny stories of stuff they did as little kids.
 - What are some favorite memories they have (or have been told) from when they were younger?
- **Include** memories they have of learning about God.
 - Who helped them first learn about Jesus?
 - What Bible stories do they recall from earlier years?
 - Did they have favorite Children’s Ministry person or Small Group Leader?

Wrap Up and Say:

“If you heard about Jesus as a little kid or just recently, it’s because someone knew that God’s story was worth sharing with you. It may have been a friend, parent, church leader, family member, or someone who wrote a book you read or spoke at a camp you visited. No matter who it was, God used them to shine the light of His love into your heart and help you understand who Jesus is and what He’s done for you. You can do that, too. If you know and follow Jesus, He will help you use your gifts and talents in creative ways to share the most important story anyone will ever hear—the story of how God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us.”

4. Lesson Recap and Prayer Journal

What You Need: Prayer journal, paper, something to write with, Bible

What You Do:

- As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
 - The Bible teaches us that the “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (**James 5:16b**). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answer your prayers.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

“If you’re a follower of Jesus, when you show God’s love to others and tell others about Him, you shine your light to the world around you. You make life better by spreading His love. Let’s pray and ask God to help us share His story.”

Pray, asking God to help both you and the kids be creative and use the things that you’re good at to share His story with others.