

## Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 4

**Today's Bible Story:** Light of the World • *Matthew 5:1-2, 14-16*

**Memory Verse:** "Let your light shine." *Matthew 5:16, NIV*

**Key Question:** Who can do what Jesus says?

**Bottom Line:** I can do what Jesus says.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### 9:30

#### 1. Move to the Light

##### What You Need:

- Flashlight
- Optional: nightlight or small lamp*

##### What You Do:

- Stand in the middle of the activity area with the children standing in front of you. Turn the flashlight on and point it at the floor. *Optional: Plug in the nightlight or turn on the lamp, and dim or turn off lights.*
- Shine the flashlight onto the floor in different areas of your activity area and encourage children to run to the light. Once all the children are standing on the light, move the light to a different area and encourage them to follow the light. Repeat as desired.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

##### What You Say:

"Everyone, come stand in front of me, and let's play a fun flashlight game!"

"When you see the light the flashlight makes on the floor, I want you to run to it. Ready? (*Point the light away from where the children are standing.*) Great job! Wait for all our friends to get there! Great job! Let's do it again! (*Repeat moving the light all around your activity area.*) You are so good at following the light."

"Today in our Bible Story, we are going to hear how we can do what Jesus says and let our lights shine!"

## 2. Shining Through

### What You Need:

- Magna Tiles® or small transparent party cups in a variety of colors
- Several flashlights
- and a bare wall

### What You Do:

- Place the tiles or cups about two feet in front of a wall.
- Encourage the children to stack and build with the tiles or cups.
- Encourage the children to work together and use as many of the tiles or cups as possible.
- If possible, dim the lights in the activity area and give the children the flashlights.
- Challenge the children to stand two to three feet in front of the tiles or cups and shine flashlights into them to create colored lights on the wall or poster board. Be sure each child has a turn with a flashlight.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

“Let’s shine today!”

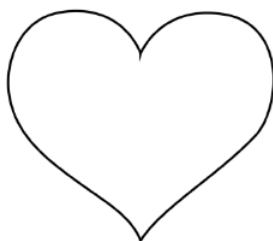
“Let’s work together to stack and build with these tiles (or cups). (*Demonstrate.*) I can’t wait to see what you build! (*Pause.*) Wow! That looks amazing! Now it is time to shine! Come shine these flashlights into the tiles. Let’s see what happens! (*Pause.*) Wow! I see your buildings on the wall! Look at how pretty the light looks shining through the tiles!”

“Today we are going to hear a Bible story about how we can let our lights shine! I can’t wait to hear it!”



### 3. Color Page

**Light of the World**  
Matthew 5:14-16  
(Toddler & Preschool / April Week 1)



**I can do what Jesus Says.**  
"Let your light shine."  
Matthew 5:16 NIV

## BIBLE STORY

**What You Need:** Bible; *flashlight or battery-operated lantern, and Story Images*

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I'm here to tell you a true story from the Bible."

"Our story begins with Jesus. Jesus is very special because Jesus is God's Son.

*(Display Story Image W4 01)*

"One day, Jesus was on a mountain with His friends, the disciples. While they were there, Jesus began to teach.

"Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world.' *(Pause.)* Hmm, how can PEOPLE be a light?"

*(Display Story Image W4 02)*

"We know that flashlights shine light. And we know that lamps shine light. But Jesus said, 'YOU are the light.' How can PEOPLE be a light?"

*Smile with excitement.*

"Great question! And I can't wait to tell you!"

*Pick up flashlight.*

*(Display Story Image W4 03)*

“You see, when you are kind to people . . .

*Turn on flashlight.*

“. . . you shine like a light so people can see that Jesus is kind.

*Turn off flashlight.*

*(Display Story Image W4 04)*

“When you forgive people . . .

*Turn on flashlight.*

“. . . you shine like a light so people can see that Jesus forgives. You can shine like a light every day.

*Turn off flashlight and set down.*

“Now, I have a game that will help us remember to shine our light! Would you like to play a game with me? *(Pause.)* Yay! All you have to do is hold your finger out, like this.

*Hold one hand out with pointer finger pointing up like a candle.*

“Pretend your finger is a really bright light. What would happen to your light if you covered it up, like this? Go ahead. Cover your light, like I’m doing.”

*Cover finger with opposite hand.*

“If you did this, you would hide your light, and no one could see it. We don’t want to hide our light. We want to shine our light!”

*Uncover finger.*

“Uncover your light, like me! *(Pause.)* Now I can see your light!

“Let’s play a game with our pretend lights. I’ll tell you a little story and then you will show me if the person is shining their light by holding up your light, like this . . .

*Hold up finger like a shining light.*

“. . . or hiding their light by covering it, like this.

*Cover finger with opposite hand.*

“Let’s play! There is a boy playing with two cars. He will NOT share one of his cars with his friend. Is the boy who will not share shining his light . . .

*Hold up finger like a shining light.*

“ . . . or is he hiding his light?”

*Cover finger with opposite hand.*

“You’re right! He’s hiding his light. How could the boy shine his light? *(Pause.)* Yes! He could share one of his cars. When you share with people, you shine your light . . .

*Hold up finger like a shining light.*

“ . . . so people can see that Jesus shares!”

“Let’s play again! A little girl needs help getting her cup off the high counter. Her older brother helps her and gives her the cup. Is the brother shining his light . . .

*Hold up finger like a shining light.*

“ . . . or hiding his light?”

*Cover finger with opposite hand.*

“Show me with your hands. *(Pause.)* Right, again! He is shining his light.

*Hold up finger like a shining light.*

“When you help people, you shine your light so people can see that Jesus helps!

“Every time you do what Jesus says, you shine your light. And Jesus says to shine your light so the world can see that Jesus loves them and He wants to be their friend forever, just like Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever!

“Raise your hand if you can do what Jesus says and shine your light. “ *Look around at the children.*

“Yes! We can do what Jesus says and shine our light! So, when I ask you, ‘**Who can do what Jesus says?**’, I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘I can do what Jesus says!’** Let’s try it! **Who can do what Jesus says?’**”

**CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “I can do what Jesus says!”**

**LEADER: “Again! Who can do what Jesus says?”**

**CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “I can do what Jesus says!”**

**LEADER: “Yes, [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says! [Transition] Our story time is over (pick up and close Bible), but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”**

## **PRAYER**

**LEADER: “Dear God, we want to do what Jesus says. We want to shine our light so everyone can see that Jesus loves them and He wants to be their friend forever. Please help us shine. You’re the best, God, and we love You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

# 11:00

## 1. Memory Verse with Motions

### What You Need:

- Memory Verse Sticker

### What You Do:

- Say the Memory Verse and teach the motions to the children.
- Repeat the verse with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.
- Review the Bottom Line.



### What You Say:

“Friends, join me over here. Everyone, listen and watch me.”

“Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine, (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job!”

“Now let’s do it together! Are you ready? ‘Let (*move flat hands forward from hip*) your light (*palms facing forward*) shine, (*twinkling hands moving out*) Matthew 5:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let’s do it again.” (*Repeat several times.*)

“Our Memory Verse teaches us that when we do what Jesus says, we let our light shine. Jesus says to shine our light to show the world that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.** Let’s say that one more time, friends. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.**”



## 2. Shine Your Light

### What You Need:

- Battery-operated tea light or tap light
- large opaque plastic bowl
- duct tape

### What You Do:

- Place a piece of duct tape over its battery compartment.
- Turn the light on and set the light on one side of the room.
- Cover it with the bowl.
- Lead the children to line up on the opposite side of your activity area as you stand near the light and bowl.
- Call the children one at a time to come to you and ask the child to lift the bowl to reveal the light.
- Encourage children as they reveal the light to repeat the Bottom Line with you.
- Cover the bowl after each child takes a turn. Repeat until every child has a turn.
- Review the Bottom Line together.

### What You Say:

“Friends, come stand right here and I’m going to stand over there. Listen for me to call your name.”

“[Child’s name], come over here and lift the bowl. *(Pause.)* What do you see? *(Pause.)* Yes! A light. We can shine our light when we do what Jesus says. Tell me, **who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says.** Great job! Go back and get in line. Our next friend is [child’s name]; come lift the bowl.” *(Continue with each child.)*

“Everyone, come join me and stand in a circle. *(Remove the bowl.)* You did a great job covering and uncovering the light.”

“Jesus says to shine our light, not hide it. We shine when we do what Jesus says. When we are kind, we show them that Jesus is kind. When we forgive people, we show them that Jesus forgives. When we do what Jesus says, we are shining our light for all to see. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!**”

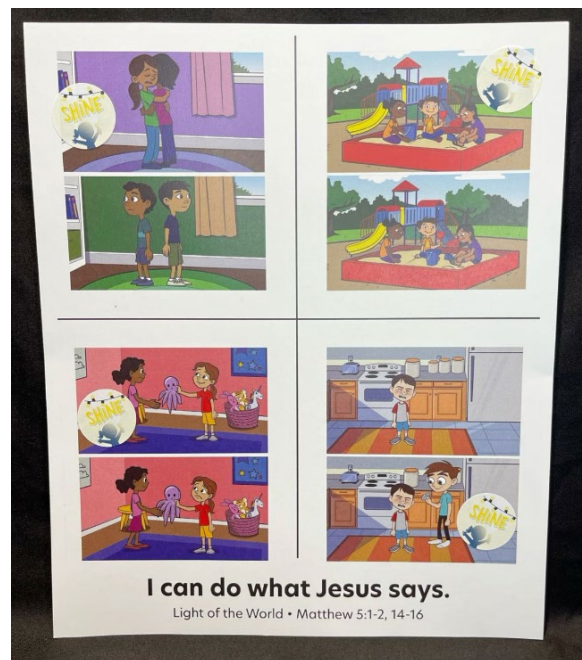
### 3. Let Your Light Shine

#### What You Need:

- “Let Your Light Shine”
- “Shine Sticker” (4 per child)

#### What You Do:

- Place the papers, markers, and Shine stickers (four stickers per child) on the table.
- Write each child’s name on their paper.
- Encourage children to look at each set of pictures and ask them to identify the picture that shows an example of a child doing what Jesus said. Ask children to color the shining light picture and place a shine sticker on it. Repeat with the remaining pairs of images.
- Review the Bottom Line.



#### What You Say:

“Friends, come find a spot at the table!”

“Look at the paper in front of you and put your fingers on the first two pictures. *(Pause.)* I see friends with their backs turned, and I see two friends hugging each other. Which picture shows someone doing what Jesus said and letting their light shine?” *(Pause.)*

“Yes, being kind and hugging a friend is doing what Jesus said! Let’s color that picture and place this special shine sticker at the top! *(Pause.)* Good job!”

“Put your fingers on the next two pictures. *(Continue with each set of pictures: playing with others, two friends sharing a toy, and helping by giving a bandage to a sibling with a skinned knee)*

“Look at all these examples of letting your light shine! When we help, when we share, we are doing what Jesus says!”

“When we do what Jesus says, we shine our light to show the world that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever. **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!**”

## Journal and Prayer

### What You Need:

- Bible
- Journal
- and a pen

### What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse and Motions
- Encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of places where we can let our light shine.
- Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### What You Say:

*(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)*

“In our Bible Story today, Jesus said, ‘You are the light of the world.’ Do you remember how we can be the light of the world? *(Pause.)* When we do what Jesus says, we shine like a light so other people can see that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever! That means **[Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says** and shine, and you can do what Jesus says and shine! So when I ask you ‘**Who can do what Jesus says?**’ I want everyone to say, **[Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** **Who can do what Jesus says? [Bottom Line] I can do what Jesus says!** And when we do what Jesus says, we shine!

“Our Bible verse, Jesus says, ‘Let *(move flat hands forward from hip)* your light *(palms facing forward)* shine,’ *(twinkling hands moving out)* Matthew 5:16. *(Open hands like a book.)* Stand up with me and let’s say Jesus’ words together! Just say what I say and do what I do. ‘Let *(move flat hands forward from hip)* your light *(palms facing forward)* shine,’ *(twinkling hands moving out)* Matthew 5:16. *(Open hands like a book.)*

“Wow! *(Clap.)* You sound so good! I love saying Jesus’ words together! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Open journal.)* Today, we are going to make a list of places where we can shine our light. And since Jesus said we are the light of the WORLD, we can shine everywhere in the world! When I say your name, tell me one place you can shine, and I will write it in our journal. *(Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“This is such a great list! Let’s use it when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

### Prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be the light of the world. Help us do what Jesus says so we can let our light shine too. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”