

The Connection

Weekly Bible Verse: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Let Your Light Shine!

Let Your Light Shine Matthew 5:14-19

When Jesus was here on the earth, He talked to His followers (to those who believed in Him.) He taught them things and told them important things. Jesus knew that they were important. He told them how important they were. All the things Jesus said to them, He also says to us today.

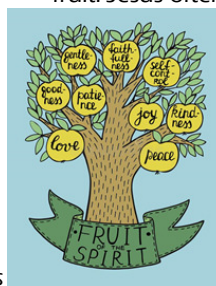


Jesus says that we are important to God! Jesus was saying that the world is in darkness. People (who don't know Him) are stuck in the dark. *(That's sad. Very sad.)* Jesus was saying that we (who believe in Him) are like the light. The light shines in the darkness. And you know that when it is really, really dark even a little bit of light really helps an awful lot. We can help people find their way out of the darkness by letting our light shine! We can tell people about Jesus! Jesus said that we (His followers) are the LIGHT of the world. What does that look like? What do people see when they look at us? Do they see Jesus?



Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22

The apostle Paul was someone who never stopped telling people about Jesus. He was despised by most leaders in the Jewish temples because he preached that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and had come for everyone. Paul was a writer and wrote many books of the New Testament with God's help. Paul often thought about his friends (especially his friends in *Galatia*) who had been very kind to him when he was sick. They also joyfully accepted his teachings about Jesus. Since it was impossible for him to visit his friends very often, he wrote letters. When the letter that he wrote to the church in Galatia was finished, it ended up being 6 chapters (Book of Galatians). In the fifth chapter, Paul wanted his friends to learn that people who are Christians — which means followers of *Jesus Christ* — have different characteristics than people who don't care about Jesus and don't want to live a godly life. Paul called these characteristics *fruit* and explained that it is easy to tell which people love Jesus and which people don't because of the fruit they exhibit in their daily lives. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift God gives Christians to help them live lives that please him and show his love to those who don't know God. God uses all of us as his instruments to



by the kind of fruit it bears.

show his love to others! Jesus was the ultimate expression of God's love, and all the qualities of God that made Jesus who he was—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—become qualities in us the closer we grow in our relationship with Jesus. These gifts, called the fruit of the Spirit, are seeds God grows inside of us to show others what his love looks like. They are seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. All are things Jesus modeled for us to show us what it looks like to show love, to have joy, to be patient, and so on. God sent Jesus to this earth to teach us how to live and to show us how to please God. That means that the more we learn how to follow Jesus' example—the more we get to know about him, the more we learn to love him, and the more we try to be like him—the more God's love becomes part of us and the more others see Jesus' light shining through you! Our Godly behaviors produce fruit. Jesus often taught that the



Together

Together we can continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - Fruit of the Spirit

Word Search - Fruit of the Spirit

Resources:

Douglas Talks—Letting Your Light Shine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-EDzu3oelo>

Fruit of the Spirit—What's In the Bible
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZiDT3k84U>



"I WONDER" Questions for Today's Lesson

→ How will others know about God because of the way that you live?

→ How will others know about God because of the words that you say?

→ How will others know about God because of the way that you treat them?

Living the Story

Fun Things to Do To Make the Lesson Come Alive!

- ♦ **Science:** Check out some science fun facts about light.
- ♦ **Flashlight Scavenger Hunt:** Hide items in a dark room (making sure the items will be visible when a flashlight is shined on them). Tell the children they will find items in a dark room with their flashlights. Then pass out the flashlights and allow them to search for the items. When the activity is complete, discuss how our good works are like lights

that point others to good things, like the best thing: Jesus!

- ♦ **Paint or draw** pictures of fruit.
- ♦ **Fruit Prints:** Use tempera paint to make fruit prints.
- ♦ **Fruit Salad:** Use different fruits to make a fruit salad.
- ♦ **Star Constellations:** Locate different star constellations and talk about how their light helps people find their way.
- ♦ **Prayer:** Lord, You are the light of the world. Let your light shine in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.



What does "Letting Your Light Shine" teach us?

Many people were following Jesus to learn more about this miracle worker. This week's story combines Jesus' teachings and a letter written by Paul to the church in Galatia. Through this story students should . . .

- Explore and understand our responsibilities to help others know and love God as they continue to grow as disciples.
- Learn that God calls us to share his love and good news with others.
- Want to be a 'light' to the world and show people what living a life for Jesus looks like.

The Pumpkin Prayer

Dear Jesus,
As I carve my pumpkin,
help me pray this prayer:

...Open my mind so that I
can learn about You;
(cut the top off the pumpkin)

...Take all my sin and forgive the wrong
that I do.
(clean out the inside)

...Open my eyes so Your love I will see;
(cut eyes shaped like hearts)

...I'm sorry for times I've turned up my
nose at what You've given to me.
(cut a nose in the shape of a cross)

...Open my ears so Your word I will hear;
(cut ears shaped like a Bible)

...Open my mouth to tell others You're
near.
(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)

...Let Your light shine in all I say and do!
(place candle inside and light it)

Type or write out Matthew 5:16
and attach it to the stem of the pumpkin
as a reminder to
live our lives for God
and his glory.

PUMPKIN PRAYER

