

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: Good Vibrations (City on a Hill) • *Matthew 5:14-16*

Today's Bottom Line: Show God's goodness to others.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIRV)

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters, wearing summer accessories: sun hat or visor, sunglasses, Hawaiian shirt, etc.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "Hi, there! Welcome back to Kidzone. It's been a blast of a summer so far, and I'm glad you're back for more as we learn how we can make waves!

"Did you know . . .

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

"What you do today can change the world around you?"

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"It's true! When we put our faith in Jesus, we have the help of God's Spirit. That's how we can make waves by living with love, joy, peace, and kindness. Our lives will **SHOW** those things because we have God's Spirit living inside us.

"There are lots of ways to make waves, but of course an obvious one is with (*hold up a dripping sponge*) . . . water!

"Let's see today how fast you can fill up this bucket using just a sponge full of water! Everyone up, and let's divide into teams.

If you're doing a summer-long team competition, you can break into those teams. Otherwise, just divide evenly by

age. Line the teams up on top of the tarp between the water buckets and the empty buckets.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ the players next to the buckets of water will pick up the sponge and pass it over their heads to the next person, who will pass it to the next person, and so on. You have to keep the sponge above your head!

“Now of course, you can squeeze out some of the water before you start passing the sponge down. But you don’t want to squeeze out TOO much . . . because once the sponge gets to the last person, they’ll try to squeeze out the water into your empty bucket. Then they’ll run the sponge back to the beginning and take the spot next to the full bucket. And everyone will move down one space. We’ll keep going that way, and the first team to fill up their empty bucket (*or fill it to the pre-determined line*) will be the winner!

Note: You can also change the game play to once everyone on the team has had a chance to squeeze out the sponge, their team is done. Once both teams are done, the team with the most water in their bucket (at the end) is the winner.

“Any questions? Okay, let’s play! Three . . . two . . . one . . . go!

AUDIO: Fun music

Watch to make sure the kids understand how to rotate positions in between each sponge pass. When the game ends, recognize the winner.

“That was awesome! Who has a wet head now? That’s what happens when you’re making waves. You WILL get wet! No worries, though—we can dance it off as we sing and worship God. Everyone, head back to your seat but stay on your feet!”

SLIDE: Theme Background

WORSHIP

LEADER: “We can read in First Chronicles 16:34 (NirV), ‘Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.’

“God is so good to us. God LOVES us. And every day, we can share God’s love with others, too. Let’s sing this song to tell God, ‘We want to live YOUR way!’

Video: “What I Choose”

SLIDE: Theme Background

“I love these lines in this song we’re about to sing: You make me want to do what’s right and be the best version of me. It’s true—God’s love changes us and helps us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. We can run to God, no matter what! Let’s sing this out together.

Video: “I Run to You”

SLIDE: Theme Background

“Nice running, everyone! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: *(Hold up Bible.)* “In the book of Matthew, we can read what Jesus said one time when He was talking to His followers on a hillside. Jesus talked about a really important way that we can make waves in the lives of the people around us. We can show God’s goodness to others! We can help them see how good God is with the way we live our lives each day.”

JESUS’ WORDS

LEADER: “Here’s what Jesus said. Who would like to read it nice and loud for everyone to hear? I need three readers, please.”

Choose three older kids who will be comfortable reading in front of everyone. Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14-16 (NirV) and hand it to the kids (point to their highlighted sections).

KID #1: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can’t be hidden.”

KID #2: “Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house.”

KID #3: “In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

LEADER: *(to the three kids)* “Great job, friends! You can have a seat.”

Move to stand behind the table.

THE LIGHT

LEADER: “Let me read that first part again.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14 (NIRV).

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can’t be hidden.

“Back in the time when Jesus was on Earth, people didn’t have lights everywhere like we have now. They basically had fires, candles, and lamps with flickering flames. If you were traveling along a dark road at night, imagine how happy you’d be to see the glow of a city in the distance!

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:15 (NIRV).

“Jesus also said . . .

“People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand.

Slowly begin pulling the sheet off the table, revealing the different light sources on the table as you continue talking.

“Because what good does a light do if it’s covered up? A light has one job to do—shine!

“There are some really interesting lights here.” *(Pick up some of the lights and describe them.)*

SHINE YOUR LIGHT

LEADER: “So what do you think Jesus meant when He told His followers, ‘You are the light of the world’? Jesus didn’t mean they were ACTUALLY a headlamp or a candle, right?

“No. What Jesus was saying is that when we do good things, it’s LIKE we’re shining a light for everyone to see. When we do good things, with the help of the Holy Spirit, people can see how good God is, too. They can see what a difference God’s Spirit has made in our lives.

“It’s like Jesus said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:16 (NIRV).

“Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Note: If you can dim the lights in the room, it would make a cool effect here. Then you can turn them up after the prayer.

“The world can seem dark sometimes. But when someone is going through a dark time, YOU can be like a light that helps them see.

Pick up one of the lights and shine it around.

“You can shine God’s goodness to brighten the world around you . . . with acts of kindness and compassion.

Turn on another light and shine it around.

“You shine bright when you choose joy—even in a in tough situation.

Turn on another light and shine it around.

“You shine bright when you make peace . . . while others are taking sides.

Turn on another light and shine it around.

“You might wonder just how far your small light can shine. (*Hold up one of the smaller lights.*) But God doesn’t call any of us to spread light on our own.

Hand out the mini flashlights to the kids. (Other adults can help with this as well.)

“Each of us is made in God’s image. We’re designed to show God’s goodness in our own unique way. Everyone, go ahead and turn on your flashlight.

“When we show God’s goodness through our actions, we can shine our light along with all the other lights in our neighborhoods . . . towns . . . cities . . . countries . . . and all across the world!” (*Sweep your arm over all of the lights.*)

Video: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Background

CLOSER

LEADER: “Jesus explained how we can shine our light in this world. Actually, Jesus said we ARE the light of the world! We can let our light shine so other people can see the good things we do. Then they’ll see how good GOD is, too.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Show God’s goodness to others. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Show God’s goodness to others.”

LEADER: “So how, exactly, can you be a light? Well when someone’s in the dark, a light shows them the way, right? So when you follow Jesus and live the way He wants you to live, you’re setting an example for other people. You’re showing them a way to live. You’re a light.

Hold up the blanket that was covering the lights before and throw it over some of the lights.

“If you’re really a light to the world, you wouldn’t want to keep that hidden, would you?

Pull the blanket off.

“Of course not. You’d want to share it.

“So when you’re kind to a friend in need, you’re a light. When you show respect to a teacher or someone in charge, you’re a light. When you honor your parents, you’re a light. When you do good things, you’re a light.

“That’s what we call goodness. But check this out. You should be good, not to make yourself look good, but to show people that GOD is good. The light that you’re shining isn’t YOUR light but God’s light. And a lot of people in the world need to know God. You can show them the way. You can be a light that points others to God.

“And remember, you aren’t doing it alone! God’s Spirit helps us show God’s goodness in our own unique way. That’s something God is always doing in our lives. It’s like we read in our memory verse, Philippians 1:6 . . .

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.

PRACTICE IT; MEMORIZE IT.

“We won’t always get it right. But when we **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated**, and then we come together as the church, we can help people see how much God loves them.