

JESUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Adapted from *Jesus in the Spotlight* by Kay Arthur with Cyndy Shearer

KEY PASSAGE: John 3:16-21

FOCUS: The Finale: Jesus Redeems His People!

MEMORY VERSE: John 3:16-18

CATECHISM QUESTION: *New City Catechism*

#19: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

Yes, God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Light in the Dark

You will need the following:

- Bible
- Pencils
- Flashlight
- Hand Mirror
- White Cardboard
- Dark Cardboard

"You can't shoot a movie without lights. That's why you hear the director say, 'Lights! Camera! Action'. Lights come on and the cameras record the action.

One of the most important parts of a movie projector is the light bulb. Without it, you can't see the film. But once the projector light is turned on, the whole movie comes to life.

1. To begin this experiment, stand the mirror and white cardboard on their sides. Place the mirror and the white cardboard at a 90-degree angle to each other. Turn out the lights in the room. Shine a flashlight into the mirror. The light reflected on the cardboard is almost as bright as the beam of light from the flashlight.

Jesus reflects God's light like the mirror. Because Jesus is God Himself, He is the perfect reflection of God. Jesus illuminates or shows us what God is like. When we understand who Jesus is, then we 'see' or know who His Father is. When Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world,' He was telling people that you can see God shine through Him.

2. Stand the black cardboard and mirror on their sides. Place them at a 90-degree angle to each other. Turn out the lights in the room. Shine a flashlight onto the black cardboard. The blackness of the color absorbs all the light. How much light reflects onto the mirror?

The blackness of the dark hides the evil that people can do. That's why evil people hate light. It exposes their acts to others so they don't want to come to Jesus. They don't want Jesus to get rid of the darkness of their sins by changing them.

3. Now stand the white cardboard and mirror on their sides again. Place them at a 90-degree angle to each other. Turn out the lights in the room. Shine a flashlight onto the white cardboard. How bright is the light that is reflected into the mirror?

Jesus' followers are like the white cardboard. When the light of Jesus shines on us, we can see God and reflect Him to others."

(p. 31-32, *Jesus in the Spotlight*)

LESSON

(Note to teacher: Read/teach the lesson to the students; be sure to allow them enough time to look up verses and engage with the Scripture independently. Each student should have the printed Scripture and colored pencils. Write the key words/symbols on the whiteboard before class.)

I. Introduction

Last week we had a two-parter that ended with a cliff-hanger. We're going to finish up Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus this week.

We're also going to go back to the beginning of our Bible study methods by marking KEY WORDS. Can you guess what one of those KEY WORDS will be based on the experiment? That's right! **Light** Our other two KEY WORDS will be BELIEVE and GOD. While we read through our passage and mark these three words, I want you to listen carefully. Jesus is telling Nicodemus about two different people. When we're done reading through, can you tell me who these two different people are?

II. Prayer

Whenever we study God's Word, we need to start with prayer. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we'll understand and believe this. Let's pray together. **Pray with students. Pray for their prayer requests too.**

III. KEY WORDS

Read through John 2:23-3:15 with the students, marking KEY WORDS as you read.

IV. COMPARE/CONTRAST

So did you catch what two kinds of people Jesus is describing to Nicodemus? **Whoever believes and Whoever does not believe** Jesus is using a literary device that we call Compare and Contrast.

Nicodemus has always thought he would automatically go to Heaven because he was born a Jew--but especially because he looked like such a good person! He memorized the entire Old Testament, followed all of God's rules, and gave away money to the poor. Last week, Jesus shocked Nicodemus by telling him that he was not going to heaven based on all those things--he needed to be born again. Now Jesus is graciously explaining even more about those who will be saved and those that are already condemned to hell.

Complete Compare/Contrast activity on Student sheet

V. Application

So which of these two people are you? Do you hate the light of Jesus showing you your sinful heart and run away from Him? Or do you come to the Light and believe in Him to cleanse you from those sins?

VI. MEMORY VERSE

We've been working on our memory verse of John 3:16-18. These verses promise eternal life to those who believe in Jesus, but to those who refuse Him, they are condemned already. Let's review these verses together. If you can say it to Mrs. Courtney after service, she'll have a small prize for you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOvAFO4NgWk>

STORYBOARD

"When a director plans a movie, he first creates what is known as a storyboard. A storyboard is a rough sketch of each of the main scenes in a movie." (p. 7, *Jesus in the Spotlight*) We've been working together to create a storyboard for the first chapter. If you were to draw a picture that shows the main point of John 2:13-22, what would it be?

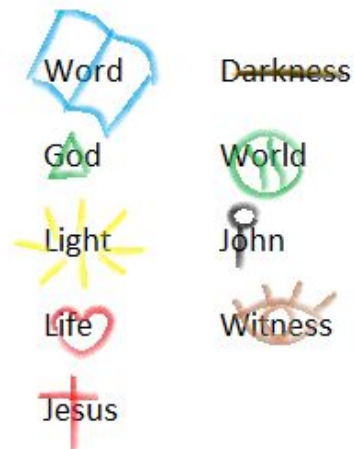
Ask students to draw a picture of the main theme/events.

Student Page: _____

Instructions: Use colored pencils or crayons to mark each of the KEY WORDS with its unique symbol.

JOHN 3

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."



Compare/Contrast: Draw a line to the person that is being described by Jesus.

1. Will perish (v. 16)
2. Will have eternal life (v. 16)
3. Not condemned (v. 18)
4. Condemned already (v. 18)
5. Loves the darkness (v. 19)
6. Hates the light (v. 20)
7. Does not come to the light (v. 20)
8. Does what is true (v. 21)
9. Comes to the light (v. 21)

Whoever Believes

Whoever Does
Not Believe