

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. A Jewish ruler named Nicodemus came to see Jesus at nighttime to ask Him some questions. Jesus surprised Nicodemus by telling him that he was not going to heaven. Nicodemus thought he was a good person and deserved to go to Heaven. But Jesus said that Nicodemus needed to be born----? Again! In today's passage, Jesus is telling Nicodemus more about what it looks like to believe in Jesus-to be born again.

I want you to listen for our KEY WORDS while I read the Bible to you. Can you guess what some of our KEY WORDS might be? Let's review the words and actions together.

JESUS: Use middle fingers to indicate nail holes in either hand

LIGHT: Open and close fingers as if to indicate twinkly stars

BELIEVE: Put hands over heart

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. Lesson

BIBLE: 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Jesus told Nicodemus that because God loves the world, He had planned from the very beginning to send Jesus to save us. If we believe in Jesus, then we have eternal life and can live with Him forever in heaven. If we do not believe in Jesus, then we are already sentence to hell for our sins.

BIBLE: 19 Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Our sin keeps us away from God. And most people don't want to be saved from their sins--they love their sin! So they run away from Jesus instead of coming to Him. If you believe in Jesus, you will come to His light and run away from darkness.

IV. Application

You were all born with a black, dark heart that loves sin. But if you turn to Jesus and believe in Him, He will give you a new heart that loves the Light, that loves Jesus! You will be born again!

VI. MEMORY VERSE

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

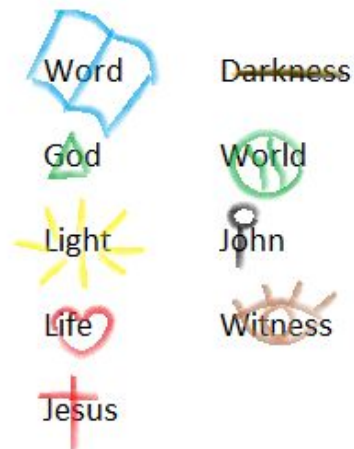
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOvAFO4NgWk>

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