

GO DEEPER

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS SHINES

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

John 14:6 (NLT)

DAILY DEVOTIONS

DAY 1: JESUS SHINES

READ - Matthew 5:1-12, 16

In the book of Matthew we read where Jesus taught about what it looks like to shine with His light. This teaching is known as the sermon on the Mount. Shining your light for Jesus means living in the way that He wants us to do, not doing what we want to do. As you read the list of how Jesus wants us to live, which one's are hard for you? How will you let His light shine through you today? **Remember: Jesus Shines**

DAY 2: SHINE HUMILITY

READ - Matthew 5:5

How do you feel when someone cuts in front of you in line or takes the last piece of candy without asking to see if anyone else wanted it? These are examples of someone who is not living humbly, but rather for themselves. When you choose to put yourself first, you are living in spiritual darkness. Shining the light of Jesus through the darkness looks like putting others first, even when it means giving away something that you really want. How can you put others first today? **Remember: Jesus Shines**

DAY 3: SHINE MERCY

READ - Matthew 5:7, 38-39

If someone slaps you, does Jesus really want you to let them slap you again? That seems crazy right?!? But Jesus wants us to show love and forgiveness to others in all situations. When we choose to fight back we are living in spiritual darkness. Shining the light of Jesus through the darkness looks like forgiving someone who has done the wrong thing, instead of trying to get even. **Remember: Jesus Shines**

DAY 4: SHINE LOVE

READ - Matthew 5:43-44, 47

Who is your enemy? Don't have one? Well, think about it this way. When your teacher picks partners at school, who are you hoping she doesn't pair you with? Or who do you avoid at the lunch table or at the park? These are the people that Jesus wants you to love. Not just the people who you like or the ones who are easy to get along with. When we choose to only love those who are kind to us, we are living in spiritual darkness. Shining the light of Jesus through the darkness looks like showing God's love to everyone! **Remember: Jesus Shines**

DAY 5: CHOOSE TO SHINE

READ - Matthew 5:14-16

As a follower of Jesus it is our choice to let His light shine through us so that others can see it. When we think about lights, they often have a switch to turn them on and off easily. When we think about living like Jesus teaches us, we sometimes act like we have a switch that we can just turn on and off whenever we want. But that doesn't work. When we act like the world, people who don't know Jesus, we are "switching the light off" and choosing to sin. Sin brings darkness instead of light. Choose to let your light shine so others will worship God.

Remember: Jesus Shines



THIS LITTLE LIGHT

Materials: plastic light bulb, white/yellow/orange paper

Cut your paper into 1" squares. Then, think of ways you can let your light shine for others to see. Next, take 1 square of paper, write/draw your idea on the paper, crumple it, and place it inside your light bulb. See if you can come up with enough ideas to fill your entire light bulb!

Thankfully, Jesus doesn't expect us to be able to live like this on our own. When we trust Him with our lives, He changes our hearts and His light shines through us!



LIVE IT OUT

Materials: "Let Your Light Shine" printable

Each of us is created unique. That means we like different things and are good at different things. This was not an accident! God created you unique for a special purpose. He can use the things that you like and that you are good at to shine for Him!

Use the "Let Your Light Shine" printable to think about how God made you special and how Jesus can shine through you using your personality, talents, interests, and abilities!



SHINE THROUGH

Materials: Bibles, clear cup, vegetable oil, salt, water colored dark with food coloring

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Do you think you can let the light of Jesus' love bubble up and shine through you? Do a simple science experiment to see how that might happen.

1. Pour vegetable oil into your cup until it is about 1/2-inch deep.
2. Pick up your cup and look at the oil. The oil is clear enough to see through. Walk your cup over to a window or hold it carefully up to the light. The oil catches the light, making it seem brighter and clearer.

Take a moment and read Matthew 5:13–16. When have you seen someone shine with Jesus' love?

3. Carefully pour a 1/4-inch layer of salt on top of the oil.

Jesus talked about salt. Salt adds flavor to whatever food it touches. Think how much flavor salt adds to the flavor of french fries or pretzels. How do God's people add "flavor" to the world?

Sometimes we feel like being selfish or getting back at people who've made us mad. When all those nasty, selfish feelings come to the top, they dim God's loving light in our lives. The water represents our selfishness.

4. Carefully pour water down the inside of your cup so you don't disturb the layer of salt at the bottom. Keep filling your cup with water until it's almost full.
5. Watch and observe bubbles of "light" (oil) break through the salt crust and rise to the surface of your cup.

When we pray and ask God to "sink" our selfish feelings, His love rises to the top. We really need God's help to shine for Him. No matter how hard we try to be like Jesus we can't do that on our own. But when we ask God to help us, He changes our hearts—then Jesus shines through us as a light in a dark world. This week, ask God to help you shine for Jesus!



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!



Things I like to do:



My Talents:



How can I serve God through my talents & interests:

At school:

At church:

At home:

Around my friends:

In my community:



Extra ways I would love to serve God: