



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO LIGHT UP A DARK ROOM.

Some people turn on a light switch. Others choose to light a candle or a flashlight. **What is your favorite way to light up a dark room? Did you know Jesus talks about Christians being like light?**

Jesus was born as a baby and then spent His life on Earth teaching others how to follow God. He explained the Scriptures to them.

Jesus also performed amazing miracles! He healed the sick, helped lame people walk again, and even helped a blind man see for the first time.



Jesus changed everything for them and He changed everything for you and me. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He conquered death and sin once and for all. The separation that existed between God and us – because of our sin – was removed. When we put our trust in Jesus and what He did, God forgives us our sin and we become a part of His family forever. Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of all of God’s promises. **He is the Light of the World promised throughout Scripture!**

Jesus also helps us live and grow so we can become more and more like Him every day. Did you know we can show others the light of Jesus through the things we do or say? **Let’s read Matthew chapter 5, verses 14 and 16?**

“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. ... LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”

MATTHEW 5:14,16

Did you hear what happens when we shine our light for Jesus? People see our good works, and our actions bring God glory! **When we allow Jesus to change our hearts, we can share His light with the world around us.**

Just like a candle or flashlight lights up a room, Christians who follow Jesus shine His light to the world. **Jesus, the Light of the World, changes our hearts forever. As we enter a new year, in what ways will you let God shine His light through you?**



* MORE TO EXPLORE

GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

MATTHEW

This week's story comes from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the first of four books known as the Gospels.

The author of this book is likely the tax collector named Matthew, who became a follower of Jesus. The book of Matthew gives readers a perspective on the life of Jesus and confirms Him as the Messiah.

HOW DO I BECOME A CHILD OF THE LIGHT?

The Bible tells us in Acts 16:31 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 that if we believe in Jesus (that He died, was buried and rose again) we will be saved. We become part of God's family and a child of the light. That's good news!

OT-NT CONNECTION

Throughout the Bible, God uses light to show how holy and righteous He is. **Read Exodus 34:29-35.**

- Why was Moses' face radiant when he came down from Mount Sinai?
- What did Moses cover his face with?
- When you pray, you are speaking to the same God Moses did! Pray and ask God to help you be a light to those around you!

JOURNAL

Write down several ways your family can share the light of Jesus with your neighbors. Share your ideas with your family and look for ways to intentionally bless your neighbors through the New Year. In addition to acts of kindness, pray for them daily. Ask God to reach them with His light. Write about your experience in your journal.

HOW DO I REFLECT THE LIGHT OF JESUS?

God made every single person in His image, but we still struggle with sin. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are changed. We become a new creation. We are still made in God's image, but His Holy Spirit helps us become more like Him in the things we think, do and say. When we do what God would, we reflect His light like a mirror. When we live for Jesus, the world can see His light in our faith and actions.

READ

Read Ephesians 5:8-20. Paul tells us that because of Jesus we are children of light. His light shows us our sin and where we have become lazy in our relationship with Jesus. Take some time to pray and ask Jesus to help you prioritize your relationship with Him.

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

♥ MEMORIZE

"... LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN."

MATTHEW 5:16

Q: AS CHRISTIANS, HOW ARE WE TO WALK?

A: IN THE LIGHT.

THINK



Talk with your child about how they can shine their light for Jesus with the people around them. Write down three ideas.

WATCH



Watch this Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

PRAY



DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR SHINING YOUR LIGHT ON ME AND RESCUING ME FROM DARKNESS. PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHANGE MY LIFE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MAKE ME MORE LIKE YOU. HELP ME TO BE A LIGHT TO THE WORLD AROUND ME. AMEN.

PLAY



Play a game of hide-and-seek with your family. Talk about how the light of Jesus can reach us no matter where we are — even when we're hiding! Remind them how we can share His light wherever we go.

FIND



This week's verse is found in the book of Matthew. Help your child find the book of Matthew. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

SHARE



Talk about your faith story. Explain how the light of Jesus showed you the darkness of your sin, how your life was changed when you trusted Jesus and how the Holy Spirit works inside of you today.

Emphasize that a growing faith takes time, prayer and continued submission to the Lord.

LEARN



Create a maze by reflecting the light of a flashlight off of several small, angled mirrors. See how long the light will reflect and how creative you can get by directing its beam around obstacles. Remind your kids that the light of Jesus (the flashlight) is reflected off of us (the mirrors) to one another.



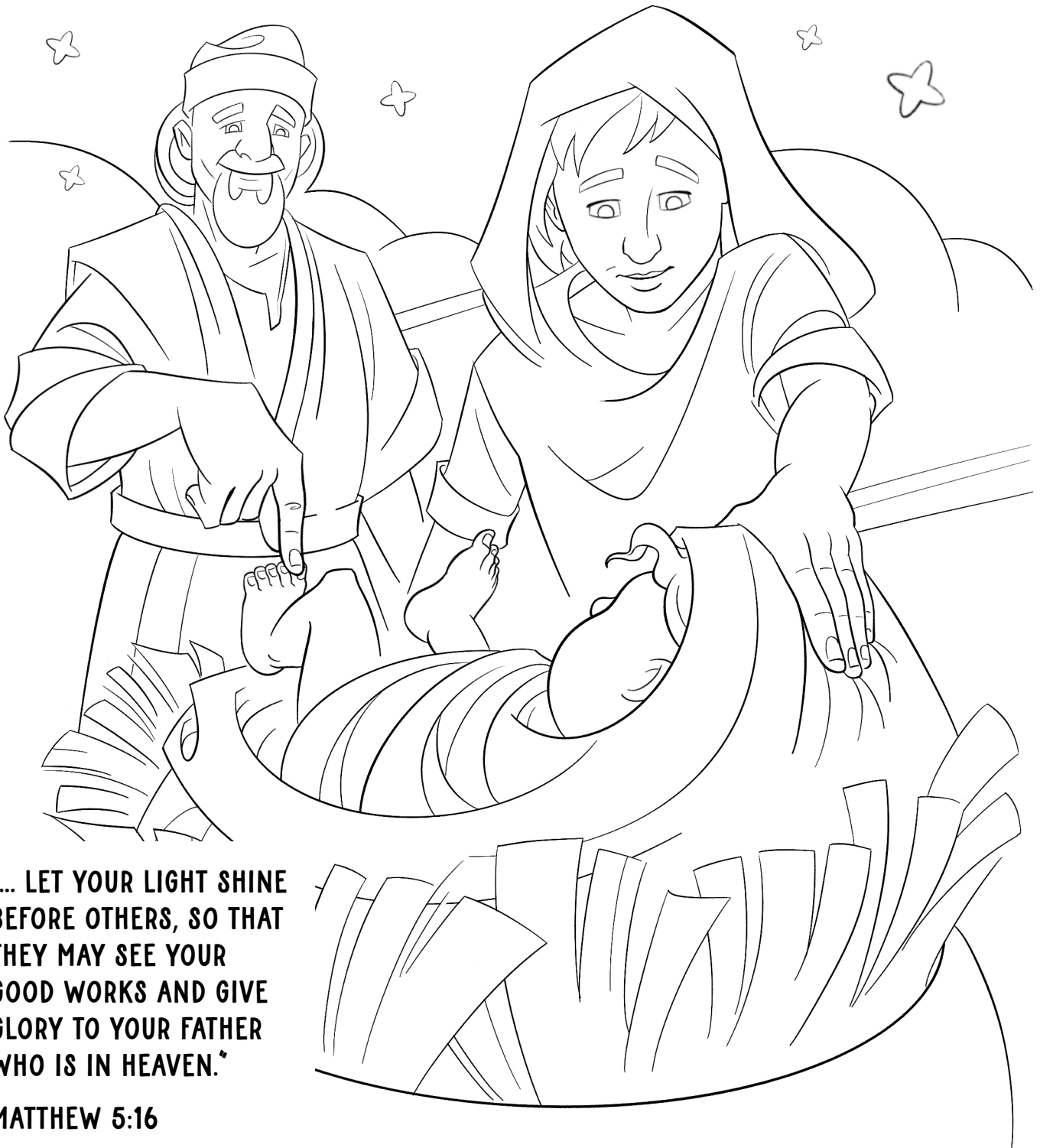
SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!

SING



Listen to this playlist throughout this series to praise God for the Light of the World.

COLORING PAGE



**“... LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT
THEY MAY SEE YOUR
GOOD WORKS AND GIVE
GLORY TO YOUR FATHER
WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”**

MATTHEW 5:16

NAME: _____