

The Emmaus Disciples

Jesus' two disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus. They were very sad about Jesus' death, and they didn't know what to think about the women's report that Jesus was alive. They were arguing about whether Jesus was really alive when He appeared and began walking down the road with them. Only they didn't know it was Jesus. The Bible says they were prevented from recognizing Him. Jesus asked them what they were arguing about, and the question actually made them stop in their tracks.

One of the disciples basically asked Jesus if He had been paying attention at all. All of Jerusalem had witnessed Jesus' triumphal entry and then His death on the cross. Jesus' disciples had scattered when He was arrested, but the two disciples traveling to Emmaus had heard rumors that Mary and the other women had seen Jesus. They weren't sure what to believe!

What did Jesus say to the disciples? Jesus said they were unwise and slow to believe. Hadn't Jesus told them that He would die on the cross and rise from the dead on the third day? Besides that, didn't the prophets explain that the Messiah would have to suffer and die to take away our sins?

Jesus began at the very beginning. When the Bible says He started with Moses and all the prophets, that means Jesus began with Moses' writings—the first five books of the Bible—and continued through the Old Testament. Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

Guide kids to discuss these questions:

- Where can we learn about Jesus?
- How do we know that the Bible is about Jesus?
- What can you do if you read something in the Bible that you don't understand?

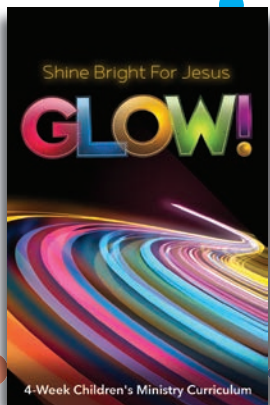
LEADER • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him. God gave us His Word to help us know Him. The Bible is all we need to know and love God.

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Do you ever feel worried about things? What are some things that make you feel fearful? (*Take a few answers.*) It can be hard feeling scared sometimes. I want to show you what it's like...first, pick one of your kids to get their school backpack. Great! Now, this bag might not seem too bad to carry around. But I'm going to add some items to it... *Begin placing heavy objects into the backpack or bag.* How does it feel now? *Add a couple heavier things to the bag.* And now? Is it getting a little heavy? Sometimes when we have anxiety and fear, it can feel like a heavy burden. Now, would you like to let that backpack go? In fact, I have an option for you: what if I trade you? I'll take the heavy bag, and in its place, I'll give you something light and easy to carry. Does that sound like a good option? *Offer a pillow or stuffed animal in place of the heavy bag.* That's a little better, isn't it? You'd probably much rather have something light to carry than the heavy backpack. And I'm happy to swap it out for you. Did you know that God does the same thing for us? There are a lot of things that might worry or scare us, but God wants to take those fears away and give us peace instead. We see this throughout the Bible. One event shows up right after Jesus rose from the dead.

Open Scriptures to John 20:19-31 (Read the text and discuss passage)

His disciples were hiding away in a room, because they were afraid. They knew that Jesus had been arrested and killed, and they didn't want to be arrested, too. While they were huddled away in fear, guess who showed up? Jesus! He just appeared in their midst and said, "peace be with you." He knew that they were worried and offered His peace instead. Jesus showed the disciples His scars and told them He wanted to send them out to proclaim His message into the world. He breathed on them with the Holy Spirit, reminding them that His presence would go with them always and that they should pass on His forgiveness to others. Jesus wants us to know that His peace and presence is for us, too. Later in this passage (while speaking with Thomas, who refused to believe until He felt the scars of Christ), Jesus said that those who believe without seeing are especially blessed. That's us! We can trust that Jesus is near, even though we do not see or feel Him all the time. There are scary and burdensome to us, but Jesus wants to take those burdens and replace them with His peace. He wants us to rely on Him. He can take away those fears that are so heavy and swap them for His peace. We don't have to bear grudges and worries alone. We can have the comfort of His love surround us always. We'd be silly to keep a heavy backpack when we had the opportunity to trade it for something easy to carry. We'd be foolish to refuse God's comfort, too! He wants to give it to us. And we can share the love, forgiveness, and peace of Christ with others around us. Let's say a prayer to thank God for Jesus and His promise of peace in place of fear. Pray with family that God would help us trust Him and remember He is alive and we can trust He will always be there to help us.



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Glow Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Our light comes from Jesus. If we want to shine brightly in the dark, we have to put our faith in Jesus, the true light of the world. The Glow Jars we made will remind kids that when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He fills our hearts with love that can shine for all the world to see. John 1:1-15, John 8:12-19, Jesus is the Light of the World



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

What lights do you have in the house to help people see in the middle of the night? Check the night-lights, any glow in the dark decorations, and other nighttime illuminations with your kids. Ask your kids how these things can remind them about what they learned in church this week.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who is the light of the world?
- How did Jesus bring light into the darkness?
- How can we receive the light of Jesus?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Jesus is the light of the world. He came into a world darkened by sin to show us the way to be saved. Pray for our children to embrace the light and receive Jesus as their Savior!

The People Promised to Be Faithful

What comes to mind when you think about confession? Do you think of sadness? Weeping and guilt? Shame and failure? What about worship?

When was the last time you came before God in true confession? What led to your admission of failure before a holy God?

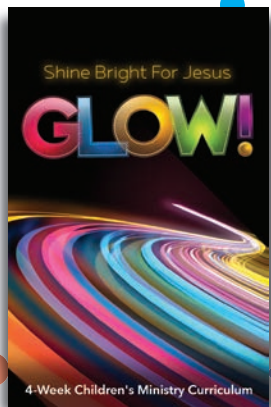
The Bible is clear that “God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance” (Rom. 2:4). But what does the Bible say about what confession should look like? What does the Bible say should lead us to confession?

Nehemiah 9 gives insight in how to answer that question. The Israelites had gathered and were fasting and beginning to confess their sin when the priests chimed in with an appropriate pattern for how that confession ought to progress.

In this text, we discover that true confession of sin will never come before genuine recognition of the holiness of God. God’s people had promised to be faithful, but following their return from exile, the men of Israel intermarried with foreign women. They were unfaithful to God, disobeying His commands. Yet God remained faithful.

The pattern of the priests is to first recognize, exclaim, and celebrate God’s goodness, faithfulness, holiness, and righteousness. Only out of those comes the reason for confession. For it is only when we see the majesty of the holy God that we see the weight of our sin and the punishment due to us as a result. Then, and only then, will we be drawn to the altar of honest confession before God. Yes, conviction must come, but it will only come when there is first an awareness of the greatness of God.

Set aside time to intentionally approach God to confess the sin in your life. Remember this pattern. That God wants your eyes fixed firmly on Him, even in moments of reflection and confession. For the moment we lose sight of Him is the moment we lose sight of the sinfulness of our sin, which is the moment before we lose sight of the necessity of confession.



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Glow Lesson 2

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: SHINE YOUR LIGHT



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Jesus has put his light inside of his followers. We aren't to hide that light away, but to share it with the world. Kids will create Glow Balloons (glow sticks carefully inserted into balloons) to remind them that our light is to be big and bold for all the world to see.

Matthew 5:13-16, Salt and Light



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids to come up with some simple things they can do to shine their light for Jesus?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How are we the light of the world?
- Why do we need to let our light shine?
- What are some things we can do to be the light of Christ?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

God sent light into the world through Jesus. He wants us to be His light and carry the good news of Jesus to others. Ask God to open your eyes and the eyes of your children this week so that you do not miss any chance to be light to someone in need.

We Should Be Sorry for Sin

Coming face-to-face with sin in our lives often leads to one of two responses: It may lead to feelings of guilt and shame that cause us to either run and hide or to simply stop trying and give ourselves over to a particular pattern of sin, or it may lead to a place of genuine confession and repentance followed by a deep trust in the power of God to help us walk in freedom.

Romans 8 provides for us a warning against living according to the flesh, but it also declares a promise that we can cling to in our battle against sin.

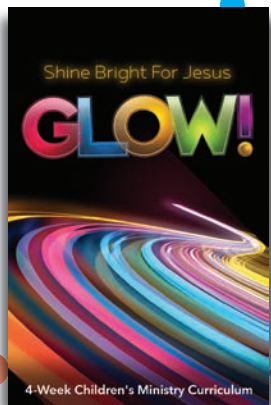
Romans 8:8-9 says, “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.”

These verses give surprising hope to the believer battling sin in his or her own life. The hope comes in the form of the Spirit of God, alive and present in the follower of Christ.

What help is this in our battle against sin? It is everything! The promise of the Spirit of God living in a believer offers hope by way of the power of God—powerful enough to defeat the devil and raise Jesus from the dead—is alive and working to fight sin in our lives.

Paul goes a step further, too. Not only is the Spirit of God at work in the heart of the believer allowing us to battle against sin, but the Spirit works in such a way that we can actually please God.

We can have hope in our battle against sin because the Lord has given us Himself in such a way that by His power at work in us, we can battle against sin and live a life pleasing to Him. “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you” (Romans 8:11).



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Glow Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BURNING BRIGHT



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

When we shine our light, we give people a chance to share in the life of Jesus. Jesus called this living water, which wells up to eternal life. John 4:1-14, The Living Water



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Using the glow sticks the kids brought home, make some "glow in the dark" drinks with clear plastic cups or glasses and talk about the meaning of living water.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did Jesus tell the woman at the well that she needed?
- How can we receive living water?
- What does living water represent?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

God sent light into the world through Jesus. He wants us to be His light and carry the good news of Jesus to others. Ask God to open your eyes and the eyes of your children this week so that you do not miss any chance to be light to someone in need.

Jesus Was Baptized

What gives you hope? It seems like a simple question, and most of us who regularly attend church likely know the “right” answer to the question. However, it’s the most important question for every person who has ever lived because your answer will determine your security and eternity. Unlike the hope the world has to offer, we can have a sure and steadfast hope that will never fail.

In the Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we see John the Baptist offer words of warning that lead us back to the question, what gives you hope?

John warned the Pharisees sternly that no family, tradition, or outward practice is sufficient to save people from the wrath of God due to them for their sin. People are saved only by the grace of God received through faith and repentance.

The same is true today. Though we may be tempted to find our hope in the faith journey of our parents, grandparents, or even children, those experiences are not sufficient to save. Though it is a gift to have family members who have placed their faith in Christ, our hope does not come from them.

Similarly, no tradition is sufficient to save either. Though we may uphold the traditions and practices—baptism, the Lord’s Supper, prayer, and so forth—those practices alone are not able to save from sin and secure eternity with God.

John the Baptist made it clear that the faith that leads to repentance brings the certainty of salvation. The larger context of the New Testament reminds us that this repentance is always paired with genuine faith. When these are present, the believer will bear the fruit of the Spirit.

What gives you hope? The only true answer is that we must put our hope in Jesus. Only faith in His finished work on the cross rescues us from sin and death, empowers us to live for Him, and promises us life with God forever.