



# MAKE IT STICK

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

## Glow Lesson 4

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BURNING BRIGHT



#### IN THE CAR:

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

The Holy Spirit came to the disciples, glowing like flames of fire above their heads. They went out boldly from there and shared the good news of Jesus to others. The Holy Spirit still helps us share the love of Jesus with other people. Acts 2:1-12, Pentecost



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Light a candle one night and read Acts 2:1-12 with your kids. Ask them how they can listen to the Holy Spirit and learn to share their light with others.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- What can we do to better follow God's leading through the Holy Spirit?



#### 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 (NIRV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

The Holy Spirit came like a fire to put the light of Christ in the hearts of believers. If we spend time building a close relationship with God, we will be able to hear the Spirit leading us, showing us how we can reach others for Jesus. Ask God to teach you and your children how you can share the light of Christ with others!

## **Jesus Was Tempted**

We've all felt some degree of hunger at one time or another. We may have had a long day at work with no time for lunch and come home hungry. We may have had a hard workout and found ourselves craving a large meal shortly afterward. We may have skipped breakfast in a hurry to get to church only to hear our stomach growl as the pastor shares that he's wrapping up for the third time. Hunger reminds us that there is something we require to satisfy a physical need.

Have you ever felt a similar sense of hunger deep in your soul, a hunger for God? Have you ever found yourself longing for a moment with God, an experience of His Spirit, a message from His Word?

The temptation of Jesus teaches us how to face temptation ourselves, but it also subtly reminds us of the blessing that comes as we hunger for God.

The first experience of temptation for Jesus came in the form of the enemy, Satan, tempting Him to use His power to turn stones into bread. Jesus' response reminds us that feeding on God's Word is the ultimate source of satisfaction.

In our own lives, we may hunger for a million different things. We may deeply desire companionship, food, a feeling, money, a job, notoriety, and so on. Those things can all be very good things, but they are not what Jesus was referring to when He spoke to the tempter.

Jesus spoke to the blessing that comes in hungering and thirsting for God Himself because, as is the case in all things Jesus said and did, He is God and knows what's best.

What do you long for above all else? Do you find a deep longing in your soul for God? Do you recognize that nothing else in this world will satisfy that desire? And are you satisfied with Him giving you Himself to meet your greatest need? Not only does the Scripture say that there is blessing in hungering for God, but your experience will also prove that nothing will satisfy you like He can and will.

## Jesus Called His Disciples

New Christians may find themselves wondering, *Now what? What do I do?* To answer these questions, we may talk with those new believers about Bible reading, prayer, community, and mission. Though these are all good and essential things, they alone do not capture Jesus' initial call to His disciples.

When Jesus first began calling disciples, He used two words: "Follow Me." He didn't say "Clean yourself up" or "Work harder." He said, "Follow Me."

The call to follow Jesus is a call to our souls to find rest. He invites us to be with Him and enjoy Him. Jesus' invitation is not to be amazing, to do great things, or even to get to work. Jesus' initial invitation is to follow Him.

Jesus has most certainly called His followers to go and do good works, but the order in which we heed His calling and instructions is vital to our spiritual health.

It's easy for us to get caught up in the activity of God, the work of His mission, and the effort we must engage in to grow as He desires for us; however, these are not to be first.

God calls us to come to Him; draw near to Him; and to see a glimpse of His goodness, beauty, splendor, and grace. And it is only in seeing these realities that we will go and do faithfully. For if we seek to go and do before we come and see, we will find ourselves in a spiral of constant despair feeling like we are falling short or equally as dangerous, feeling like we must earn our way to God.

Jesus' call to His disciples to come and see is the same invitation that we have today. Whether we have walked with God for decades or are new to the faith, our greatest need is to draw near to God and experience His glorious grace. It is then that we will see Him for who He truly is, understand ourselves more fully, and then live faithfully for His glory.

## **Jesus Came to Be the Sacrifice for Sin**

The phrase “take away” has many different connotations and applications. For a four-year old, it means someone stole their toy. For a basketball player, it means a steal. For a math teacher, it means subtraction. So, what does it mean that Jesus came to “take away the sin of the world”?

In John 1:29, as John the Baptist saw Jesus coming along the banks of the river where he had been baptizing people and calling for repentance, John said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

This statement raises a question that’s important for every person: What does it mean that Jesus came to take away the sin of the world? A look to Hebrews 10 brings clarity as we seek to allow Scripture to help interpret the question.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that the Old Testament sacrificial system was good, but not enough. Though this system proved to be a faithful response to the call of God for His people prior to Christ’s arrival, it was never intended to be a permanent means of atonement for the sin of God’s people.

Hebrews 10:12-14 says, “But this man [Jesus], after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified.”

Jesus was the perfect sacrifice because He lived a sinless life and died once as a single offering for sins. All who trust in His death and resurrection are eternally forgiven as His sacrifice has satisfied the wrath of God on their behalf.

This is what it means that Jesus takes away the sin of the world: Jesus died once for all, that those who trust in Christ would no longer be held captive by their sin and that they would be able to stand before God, redeemed by the blood of Jesus shed for sins. This is the greatest “take away” the world has ever known.

## **Jesus Told Nicodemus About Eternal Life**

Light and darkness are contrasted throughout the Scriptures. In John 3, Jesus explained to Nicodemus the hope and grace of God and the means by which He saves. Consider what Jesus was saying as He emphasized this contrast in this conversation.

In John 3:19-21, Jesus said, “This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”

Jesus said that judgment is coming—and has arrived—because people loved the darkness more than the light. Ultimately, Jesus was referring to Himself, having entered the world to overcome the darkness. But as John 1 says, He was not recognized as the light, even by His own people.

Some two thousand years later, the question is, do we too love the darkness, or have we truly received the light? And how can we know? Jesus helps us answer this question.

One might summarize Jesus’ response this way: if you love the darkness, your deeds will be evil. If you love the light, your works will be obvious evidence of the power of God. The evidence of whether we love the darkness or the light is found in the way we live.

Do you live in a way that expresses your love for light or for darkness? Is there a clear picture of the power of God in your decisions, actions, and words? Do people see the work of God and hear of His power when they interact with you?

It’s easy to answer these important questions with aspirations, but we cannot convince God of what is not true. And even further, our aspirations mean nothing without a deep dependence on God's transformation for our lives. Though we find evidence of what we love in how we live, ultimately God looks at the heart. Our lives will be evidence for loving God above all else. In our faithful pursuit of the light, the evidence will show itself.