

GLOW.

## **G.L.O.W.**

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## **Camp Gap Bible Study Introduction**

The theme for this year at Camp Gap is **G.L.O.W.: Go Light Our World.**

### Bible Study Sessions:

- Session 1      **The Dark Side**  
This lesson introduces the camp theme for the week and talks about the need for light. Darkness and light are defined as we look at the condition of our world.
- Session 2      **Walk into the Light**  
This session presents the solution to spiritual darkness. This lesson will help you present an in-depth presentation of the Gospel.
- Session 3      **Power Up**  
Students will realize that in everything they do they need God. This lesson will help students desire to stay connected to the power source.
- Session 4      **Light Up the Darkness**  
What does it mean that we are the “light of the world?” What can preteens do to dispel darkness?

The Bible Study sessions are lengthy. Please use the sections that work for your group or do some of the study ideas during your evening devotional time.

### **Preparation**

1. Prepare a colorful poster for your Bible Study area. Title the poster “G.L.O.W or Go Light Our World.” See Item 1-a, you may copy or enlarge this for use as your poster. Each Bible Study session will include a lesson title page and other visuals that you can add to the poster and Bible study area daily.
2. Each session lists supplies that you will need to gather before camp. These items include making copies of visuals and activities for the lessons. Some items will be more effective if copied on card stock or colored paper. If your church does not have adequate copiers, please contact the Mt. Lebanon office immediately at 972-291-7156 for help. Prepare early.
3. Quiet time booklets are available that encourage individual learning each day as well as time alone with God.
4. The Bible Study material will use the NIV translation of the Bible. It is suggested that the Bible study teacher use the NIV translation.

**G.L.O.W.**  
Session 1

# The Dark Side

**Purpose:**

- To help children understand sin.
- To explain that the Bible sometimes uses darkness as a metaphor for sin and light as a metaphor for righteousness.

**Scripture used:**

- Genesis 1:3, Psalms 139:11-12; 143:3, Proverbs 4:19; Ecclesiastes 2:13, Isaiah 5:20; 29:15; 59:9, Ezekiel 8:12, John 3:19, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 5:8, 11, 1 John 2:9-11

**Memory Verse:**

- Ephesians 5:8: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

**Supplies Needed:**

- Copy of title poster “G.L.O.W.,” see item 1a
- Copies of “Guess the Opposite” item 1b (optional)
- Copy of “The Dark Side” lesson title poster, item 1c
- Darkness verses item 1d (2 pages)
- Pencils
- Poster board, white board or butcher paper
- Markers or white board markers
- Tape, sticky tack or thumb tacks
- Blindfold/child (optional)

**Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.

**Main idea:**

- Everyone sins.

**Introduce the Bible Study:**

Welcome to Bible Study. As you know the camp theme this week is G.L.O.W. Display the G.L.O.W. title poster, item 1a. G.L.O.W. is an acronym for Go Light Our World. So this week we will be talking a lot about light.

What is the opposite of light? Yes, it is dark. Display lesson title page Item 1c. The title of our lesson today is “The Dark Side.” Does that remind you of anything? The dark side is portrayed as an evil aspect in *Star Wars* fiction. We will not be talking about Star Wars today, but will be talking about darkness and evil in our world.

**Optional introduction: Guess the opposite.** There are a lot of good opposites. To help us understand light we are going to play a game of opposites. Split your group into two or more teams. Give each team a pencil and a copy of the “Guess the Opposite” page, item 1b. The object of the game is to be the first group to complete this page with all the answers correct. Give the students a few minutes to do the work then check the pages and decide which team wins. Tell the students that today we will focus on the opposite of light. You may also just do some of the opposites out loud with your group instead of using the copies of the page.

**Transition to Bible Study:**

What is darkness? Listen to the student’s ideas. The dictionary simply defines darkness as the absence of light. So, if there is no light then there is darkness. That is in the physical world—the world where we look and see with our eyes. Our eyes can see light or dark instantly. We take daylight and nighttime, light and dark pretty much for granted. We expect the sky to be light in the morning and dark at night. When there is a storm we might even see darkness in the daytime and we expect that to happen.

The light and darkness we are talking about this week is more than physical. The Bible talks about light and darkness in a physical way, like in Genesis 1:3, And God said, “Let there be light and there was light.” The Bible also talks about light and darkness in a spiritual way. In the Bible, darkness is often a symbol of gloom, oppression, sin, evil and falseness. Darkness is a symbol of the absence of God or a desire to not know God. Today we will look at Bible verses about darkness and see what God says about darkness.

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Distribute a verse reference to individual students (item 1d, cut apart). You may want to have these students come to the front and read the verse. Or you could form small groups and give each group a verse to read and discover what that verse says about darkness. As a visual use a poster board, white board or butcher paper to record what students find out in each verse about darkness.

Your visual may look like this (without the comments column):

Verse:	About darkness:	Comments:
Psalm 139:11-12	Darkness will not hide you from God.	Evil is often done under the cover of darkness.

Psalm 143:3	The enemy wants me to live in darkness.	Who is the enemy? Why would he want me in darkness?
Proverbs 4:19	Darkness is dangerous; you cannot see what makes you stumble.	Physical and spiritual darkness is dangerous.
Ecclesiastes 2:13	Light is better than darkness	Why is light better?
Isaiah 5:20	It is not good to distort the way things are: good, evil; light, darkness; or bitter, sweet.	We must make sure we know what is right and wrong and don't let people tell us differently.
Isaiah 29:15	God knows what is planned in darkness. God sees, God knows.	No way to hide what we think or plan from God.
Isaiah 59:9	If we walk in darkness (spiritual) justice and righteousness are not near us.	We have to examine how we live. Any sin is darkness?
Ezekiel 8:12	Leaders worship idols—say God doesn't see them.	God knows when we choose other things over Him
John 3:19	People love darkness because what they do is evil.	Do you love darkness?
Ephesians 5:11	We should have nothing to do with evil but should expose it.	There is right and wrong—there is good and evil. Do good, expose evil.
1John 2:9-11	If we hate we live in darkness and are blinded to what is right.	Sometimes we say we live for God, but don't do what He commands. Sin (hate) is darkness.

In summary, darkness is a symbol of gloom, oppression, sin, evil and falseness. Darkness is Satan, his kingdom, his system of thought, immorality, sin and evil. Darkness is opposed to God. So we are either in darkness or in light. Our world is a dark place. Evil is often made to look good in movies, music or television. Many people just go along in darkness all of their lives, trying to hide the evil or ugly things they do. They think if no one sees them then they can do what they want. As the above verses said, God sees. God knows if we are choosing to live our life in sin, doing things that He would not have us do.

**Apply the Lesson:**

Tomorrow we will talk about how to get out of darkness, but today let's think about where we are. Let's sit in the darkness. Have each child close their eyes and put their hands over their eyes or if you want give each a blindfold. With your eyes covered think about the following things:

This is darkness. Our world is in the dark because people are away from God...away from God because of sin. When we think of evil, we almost never think of anything within us, we think of murders, child abusers, terrorist, bullies, people who steal and hate and hurt others.

Now as we sit here in the dark, think of yourself. We can become accustomed to darkness. We can think it is not so bad. A few bad words, a few lies, being disobedient to our parents, and cheating at school start to seem like little things. In the world today people tell us we should tolerate evil, think of it as a choice and not a sin. God tells us we have all sinned (Romans 3:23). Think of you and sin; think of you and darkness.

What are the things in your life that are sin?  
Do you try to hide the things you do that you know are wrong?  
Do you say you love God but hate some people?  
Do you do what is wrong if you think you can get away with it?  
Is loving God and doing what He wants important to you?

In this last minute that we sit here ask God to make you aware of your sin, your darkness. After letting the students sit in darkness and listen to God for a few minutes pray for them.

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 5:8: *“For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”*

Have everyone open their Bibles to Ephesians 5:8. This is our Bible Verse for the week. We will work on learning a section of the verse each day until we know it all. After reading through the verse a few times ask, “which part of the verse did we talk about today?” The lesson talked about how our world is in darkness. Have the students repeat the phrase, “For you were once in darkness.” If time allows have individuals or groups come up with motions to go along with that section of the verse. For example, hold up four fingers to represent “For,” point to someone for “you,” make a W in the air to represent “were” etc.

**Closing:**

Ask the students what they learned today.

Encourage the students to think about sin and what it does to our world and to their lives. God offers us hope, but we have to realize that we are sinners.

Pray.

**Extra Challenge:**

Today we began with opposites. There is light and dark. You may want to continue to challenge the children with opposites throughout the day. Some opposites could require deep thinking. What is the opposite of God? What is the opposite of worship? What is the opposite of lunch? What is the opposite of camp?

**G.L.O.W.**  
**Session 2**

# Walk into the Light

**Purpose:**

- To show the difference between the spiritual light and the darkness.
- To present the plan of salvation to the students in an understandable way.
- To give each student a chance to repent of his/her sin and ask God to take control of his/her life.

**Scripture used:**

- John 3:1-9, 16-21; 7:50-51; 19:39 Ephesians 5:8; Romans 3:23

**Memory Verse:**

- Ephesians 5:8: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

**Supplies Needed:**

- Copy “Walk into the Light,” lesson title page, item 2a

**Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Review the plan of salvation.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea and the plan of salvation.

**Main Idea:**

- God gave His Son to save the world, to save us.

**Introduce the Bible Study:**

Pretend like you want to divide the students into groups. The explanation could go something like this: “Okay, for today’s lesson I need to divide you into some groups. Let’s try all the boys on this side and all the girls over on that side.” Give the students time to do as you ask. Then continue with, “No, you know what that is not going to work after all. Let’s do grade groups instead, third graders go here, fourth graders here, fifth graders move over there, and sixth graders come here to the center. Okay, (pause, think about it) I think that will work, everyone sit down. Ah, well, no this is not good. I’m sorry, let’s try again—I am just trying to get something that will work well. Hum, how about we divide by ah, ah, ah, eye color. Those of you with blue eyes come to this area, those of your with green eyes go over there. If you have brown eyes form a group here, and if you have some other color of eyes then come to the middle. Hum, maybe this will work—everyone sit down. Okay, good—this is going to work.”

“Okay, who can tell me something that we learned in Bible study yesterday? Wait, I finally remembered what groups we need to be in. Everyone that sins, sit here and everyone that doesn’t sin sit over there. I mean right now you can move over there if you don’t sin. Move right now!” Hopefully everyone moves to the sin group and no one moves to the no sin group. If they do you can remind them of Romans 3:23, *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Modification to introduction:** If your group is large or your space is small or you do not want the confusion then employ one of these alternatives. Have students raise their hands or stand to just see the groups without them actually moving. Or use a smaller set of students that comes to the front and then divides into the various groups in the introduction.

**Transition to Bible Study:**

The Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23. Unfortunately that puts all of us, including me in the sin group. We all sin. What is sin? Sin is when we do anything that is not what God wants us to do. Remember that sometimes the Bible talks about people that sin living in darkness. We found out that darkness is not a good place to be. So, today we are going to talk about how to move out of this group that lives in darkness. We do have to realize that we live in darkness, that we are sinners before we can move out of the darkness.

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Open your Bibles to John, chapter three. Read verses one through nine.

Today our lesson is about a man named Nicodemus. Here is what we know about Nicodemus. He is a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews, a member of the Sanhedrin. In other words, he was supposed to know all about what God wanted people to do and he was on the supreme court. We get the impression that maybe he was just going through the motions, maybe he was not sure that he knew all the answers.

We see that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night—the Bible does not tell us why he came at night. Maybe he wanted a private conversation with Jesus. Maybe he did not want to be

seen with Jesus (after all what would others think?). Maybe he was living in darkness and was curious about what Jesus had to say.

Nicodemus showed Jesus respect. He said it was obvious Jesus was a teacher. Nicodemus said that Jesus was a teacher from God and that Jesus did miracles (v. 2). Nicodemus did not really say why he was there.

In verse three, Jesus goes right to the thing that Nicodemus is missing. Jesus knows what Nicodemus needs. Jesus says you have to be born again. In other words, it is not enough to recognize Jesus you have to know Him. Birth is the beginning of life. We are born to a physical life and Jesus says we must be born again to a spiritual life.

Nicodemus came to the right person and he is asking the right questions. Twice Nicodemus ask Jesus how to be born again (v. 4, v.9). Let's focus in on verse sixteen which is part of Jesus' answer. This is probably the most quoted verse in the Bible. Some of you may already know this verse. Read verse sixteen or have a student say it.

This verse tells us that God loved the world with such intensity (so much) that He gave His only Son. By saying He loved the world we are talking about everyone, not just boys or girls, or third graders or kids with blue eyes, everyone. God sent His Son for everyone. All sin; all need Jesus. God gave His Son, Jesus to suffer and die for us. God had a purpose in sending Jesus. Through Jesus' sacrifice we can have eternal life. Jesus came to save us from sin and darkness. God gave His Son to save those who would believe in Jesus from perishing and to give them eternal life.

Again we are back to groups, those who believe and those who don't believe. There are those who are perishing and those who have eternal life. Verse seventeen repeats that Jesus came to save the world. The entire world is sinful; the entire world needs a savior. So the group for all eternity is those who believe and those who don't believe.

So what does it mean to believe in Jesus? John describes belief and unbelief in terms of how people respond to the light. Read verses nineteen through twenty-one. Jesus is the light that came into the world. There are two ways to respond to the light. One way is described as loving darkness, doing evil work, hating the light and choosing not to come into the light. The other way is when someone comes to the light, lives by the truth, and does what God wants him to do. Belief is not momentary, but continued, settled convictions that make a person want to change. People live in darkness and some are happy about this darkness because they love sin. People that chose to believe in Jesus have to change, have to come into the light and do things for God. You can tell if someone believes by what they love. If they love darkness then they do not believe in Jesus. If they believe in Jesus they want to do what He wants; they love light.

So, we must examine ourselves: Do we love Jesus or love sin? Think about not just what you tell people but how you live. Do we gladly do things where everyone can see what we do or do we try to hide our actions and don't want others to know what we do? Do we do

what God wants or what we want to do? Belief changes your heart. Belief changes your life—you are born again with a new heart from God.

The Bible is not clear about what happens to Nicodemus. Did he ever decide to let Jesus be his savior? He speaks a good word in Jesus' favor as Jesus' life became increasingly in danger (John 7:50-51), and, at Jesus' death, he helps prepare Jesus' body for burial (John 19:39). One hopes that Nicodemus did see the light.

**Apply the Lesson:**

At the beginning of the lesson we talked about dividing into groups—those that sin and those that don't sin. We all end up in the group that sins, the group that lives in darkness. It is important for us to realize that we all do wrong. It is important for us to recognize sin, but we also need to know that God provided a way out of the darkness. God gave His Son to save the world, to save us. We have to accept God's offer. We have to decide that we want to be different that we do not want to continue to live in darkness. Some people sitting in this group that sins already have decided not to be part of this group any more. They decided sometime in the past to believe in Jesus and let Him change their life so that they love light and not darkness.

If you have never made that decision you have an opportunity to decide today. You must realize that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself. You need to believe in Jesus and ask Him to change you. Then you need to tell others about your decision. Talk to a shepherd today if you want to find out more about letting Jesus be in control of your life.

**Memory Verse:**

Our memory verse is Ephesians 5:8: *“For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”* Have students find this verse in their Bibles and read it together.

Look at the second part of this verse. It says, “but now you are light in the Lord.” Today we talked about how you can be light in the Lord. God gave the gift to us of eternal life if we choose to live in the light. Living in the light means living with Jesus in charge of our lives.

Yesterday we put motions to the first of this verse. Who can say that part of the verse? Now get suggestions from the students to add motions to the next part of the verse and say the first two parts together using the motions..

**Closing:**

Remind students of a good time when they might talk to a shepherd if they want to know more about believing in Jesus.

Pray for those that need to make a decision to be bold in doing it. Pray for those that have already made the decision to really let Jesus be in control of their lives.

**Extra Challenge:**

As you continue with your day you might want to use your groups more. The sixth graders

already get some privileges. Maybe you could have your fourth graders go first at a game or those with green eyes be the first on the zip line. Ask the students how you could divide into more groups. Remind students that there are really only two groups of people those that love darkness and those that love light.

**G.L.O.W.**  
Session 3

# Turn on the Power

**Purpose:**

- To encourage students to stay connected to God.
- To help preteens understand the importance of prayer, Bible study, and worship.

**Scripture used:**

- Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 95:6-7, 119:11, 105; Ephesians 2:8-10, 5:8; 2Timothy 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

**Memory Verse:**

- Ephesians 5:8: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

**Supplies Needed:**

- A variety of objects that can produce light: flashlight, candle, light stick, lighter, cell phone, match, laser pointer, etc.
- “Turn on the Power” lesson title page 3a
- Index card/child
- Pencil/child
- 20 sheets of white cardstock or construction paper
- Sharpie
- Masking tape

**Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.

**Main idea:**

- We must stay connected to God.

**Introduce the Bible Study:**

Have a variety of objects that can produce light: flashlight, candle, light stick, lighter, cell phone, match, laser pointer, etc. Talk to the students about how each of these objects will produce light. Some of the light will not stay on very long, for example a match will burn out pretty quickly. It is not the best thing if you really need a light for a long time. Some of the objects, like the flashlight, need batteries to work and if the batteries are no good or inserted incorrectly then the object will not work. After a while the batteries run out of power and you need new ones to keep producing light. Some of the objects may use rechargeable batteries. Most people have cell phones these days—they do not just continue to work forever. We have to plug them in to recharge them. Once they are powered again they will work again. They are not always really bright, but they can work if you need a little light. A glow stick is a single-use tube containing isolated substances which when combined make light through a chemical reaction which does not require an electrical power source. Depending on which compounds are used, the chemical reaction may go on for a few minutes or for many hours.

At home you have even more things that make light, but they all have something in common. They need a power source. It could be electricity, batteries, chemical reactions or even other sources. If the object does not have a power source, then the light will not be available.

Do I make the light? No, I might want some light but on my own I cannot make any light. I need a power source. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. If I want to be in the light can I read my Bible, pray, go to church, etc. and be in the light? No, those are good practices and we will talk about some of them today but the only way I will make it into the light is by accepting God's free gift, Jesus, and asking Him to be in charge of my life. It is God that saves us not anything we do. That was yesterday's lesson. Once I let God control my life then I will want to learn more about God, spend time with God and talk to God because I love Him. God wants us to do good things. These verses said that God created us to do good works but no work I do will earn salvation. Today we are talking about activities that can help us grow stronger after we become Christians.

**Transition to Bible Study:**

Christians need a power source. We need to be recharged. Our batteries run low if we do not stay plugged into God. So what should we do to make sure we do not get weak spiritually, sputter out and are back in darkness again? We must make sure that God's power fills us and keeps us full of light. God is always there so if our light is off we must be disconnected from God.

There are lots of opportunities each week to connect with God. What are some things we can do each week to keep connected to God's power? With the help of the students make a list. Children will mention things like attend Sunday School, church, Bible study, Awanas, listen to teachers and preachers, have prayer before meals, read their Bible, family devotions, pray, etc. That is a long list. Which do you do every day? What do you need to do every day?

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

So, we can tell by the list that there are lots of things that will help us stay connected to God.

Maybe you are thinking if I did all that stuff I wouldn't have time to play or even go to school. Well, let's just look at some of the essentials to stay connected to God.

Students usually can list the things they need to do to stay connected to God, but if you ask how many of them read their Bible every day the number usually is very low. Reading our Bible is one important way to stay connected to God. Read 2Timothy 3:16. This verse tells us that all scripture is from God and what is it useful for? Teaching, rebuking, correcting and training so that we can be ready to do good works for God. If we read the Bible we will learn, it will show us when we are wrong and it will train us to do the right things. Psalms 119:11, says by learning what it says in the Bible it will help us not to sin. Psalm 119:105, says that the Bible is like a lamp in the darkness to show me the right way to go—to light up the path I should take. If we read the Bible on a regular basis it will provide us with encouragement and answers to problems. Learn to search your Bible for what you need to know about and to write down what you learn. When you read and you find a verse that really speaks to you write it on a note card and post it in your room. Look at those verses often and memorize what they say. Share some verses with a friend, they might need to hear them too.

Look for a time in your day when you can spend time reading your Bible. Really think about what you read. Do not get in a hurry and think I have to read this whole chapter and I only have ten minutes. Don't read one verse and say, "okay I read my Bible today." Make sure you have enough time to read and think and listen. The idea is to read to learn something not just to say you did it. If we read and study our Bible it should change our lives. It will show us when we sin. It will show us when God wants us to change something we do. We look in a mirror to see if we look okay on the outside. We look in the Bible to see if we are truly following God.

As a Christian there are basics that we need to practice continually. Learning our Bible is one of the basics in a Christian's life. Prayer is another basic. In prayer, we have a direct connection to God. Unfortunately we do not use this connection often enough. Sometimes we wait until we have tried everything else or we wait until our battery is completely dead and then we turn to God in prayer for help.

The Bible tells us how to stay connected to God in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. "Pray continually." We often try to make prayer a lot harder than it is. We think there is a certain formula that we have to follow. If we don't say the right things then maybe God won't hear us. God wants prayer to be really easy. Think of God as your best friend. We cannot wait to tell our best friend everything that happens in our day. So, tell God. Pray continually. Talk to Him when you are happy or sad, when you need or want something, when someone you know is hurting or sick, when you are having a great day, when you are lonely. Your prayer should be meaningful and helpful. It doesn't matter where or when you pray God is always listening. Just pray.

A third thing that can help us stay connected to God is worship. We can worship by ourselves and we should do this some—just listening to praise music and thanking God for all He does in our life. We should also worship with other Christians. We do it here at camp

and at our churches. We serve a great and mighty God; He deserves our worship. Worship reminds us that the world is not about us. We are God's people, put here for God's purposes. Worship reminds us that God is God and nothing else in the world is worthy of the praise He deserves. Read Nehemiah 9:6 and Psalm 95:6-7. We should worship God. He made us and loves us. He deserves our worship.

We can read the Bible, pray, and worship to stay plugged in to God to keep the light shining. There are other things like we mentioned earlier that are great things to do to learn more about God and stay connected to Him. We must be committed to God. We must decide that staying connected is important to us. We will grow stronger, our light will shine brighter if we learn and obey the Bible. We will light our world if we spend time in prayer and worship. God will shine through us. It is not easy to get started with reading your Bible everyday—just do it. You will have to remind yourself to pray continually. You will have to make sure that you really come to church wanting to worship God. You will be blessed for staying connected to God and it will get easier.

**Apply the Lesson:**

Give each child a small index card and a pencil. We have talked today about how to stay connected to God. Often we hear that we should read our Bibles, pray, go to church, worship or fellowship and yet nothing changes. Today think about what you want to change in your life so that you are more connected to God. Maybe you want to try and read your Bible every day. Maybe you want to keep a prayer list and write down what you are praying for. Maybe you want to attend worship services and really worship God not just go through the motions. Maybe something that we didn't even talk about today, but you know God wants you to do it.

Right now we are going to get very quiet and just listen to God. Close your eyes for a few minutes if you need to. Then write on your card what you want to do just because you love God and want to stay connected to Him. When you are finished put the card in your Bible and stay quiet while others are listening to God.

**Memory Verse:**

Our memory verse today is still, Ephesians 5:8: *"For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."* See who remembers the first parts of the verse and can do the actions your group came up with.

Today we talked about living as children of light. If you have accepted Jesus as your savior it is important to God that you live like you belong to Him. One more time tell me some things you can do to live as children of light?

Now have the group come up with motions for the last part of this verse and say the entire verse with all the actions for the entire verse. Encourage students finish memorizing this verse today.

**Closing:**

Pray that the students will stay plugged into God. Pray for them to find time to read the Bible, to pray and to worship God. Pray that they would desire to do those things that will help them grow in knowledge of God.

**Extra Challenge:**

Encourage students to pray continually. Tell students to try and make a conscious effort to pray about everything today. No complaining—just praying, praising and worshiping God as they go throughout their day. These can be just sentence prayers that they know they are saying to God even if they say them silently. Thank you God for camp. Help me to walk all the way to the zip line. Let me be brave. I want to worship you God. I want to learn more about you God.

**G.L.O.W.**  
Session 4

## Light Up the Darkness

**Purpose:**

- To encourage students to be light in the darkness.
- To help students desire to be different than the world.

**Scripture used:**

- Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:8-11

**Memory Verse:**

- Ephesians 5:8, “For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”

**Supplies Needed:**

- Copy of “Light Up the Darkness” lesson title page, item 4a
- Nametag that says, “Hello I’m a Christian.” (handmade one is okay)
- What light does, item 4b 1-5
- Glow in the dark bracelet/child or other item that glows in the dark
- Black construction paper/child (for option 1)
- Glow in the dark markers or crayons (for option 1)
- Glow in the dark stickers (optional)
- 20 White construction paper (for option 2)
- White crayons (for option 2)
- Bright colored markers (for option 2)

**Teacher Preparation for Bible Study**

- Prepare teaching aids. Decide if you will use option one or option two for the memory verse.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.

**Main idea:**

- Let your light shine!

### **Introduce the Bible Study:**

As you start the lesson wear the “Hello, I’m a Christian” nametag. How do you like my name tag? Pretty cool, huh? It says, “Hello, I’m a Christian. I wore it so people can tell who I am. That’s why people wear name tags. So other people can tell who they are.

Well, I got to thinking: what if all Christians wore name tags that said, “Hello, I’m a Christian?” Then people could tell we live for God. What do you think? Would you wear a nametag that says that?

On second thought, maybe people should be able to tell we’re Christians just by watching us. The Bible says, “*You are the light of the world*” (Matthew 5:14). It means that if we behave like Christians, people will be able to tell we’re Christians – even without a name tag! Display the lesson title page, “Light Up the Darkness,” item 4a.

### **Transition to Bible Study:**

As we begin our Bible Study today, let’s think about what we have learned so far this week. Ask the following or use questions of your own to review the Bible study from this week. Who can tell me what we learned about darkness? How do we get out of spiritual darkness? Once we are a Christian how do we stay connected to the power of God?

Learning that our world was a dark place where people choose to do evil and hide what they do was pretty sad. Learning that Jesus provided a way out of the darkness and that we could stay plugged into God to continue living in the light was wonderful. Today we will see that we are not just supposed to stay plugged into God, but we are supposed to light up the dark world. We should be shining in the darkness and pointing people to God.

### **Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Have the students open their Bibles to Matthew 5:14-16.

Because we have been talking about light we want to focus on verses fourteen through sixteen. Read those verses. Jesus implies and we have learned that the world is in darkness and needs light. What do we need to do to be this light Jesus is talking about? As we talked about in lesson two, we must know God. He must be in charge of our life. If we don’t know God then we are still living in darkness and cannot provide light to the world. Christians are light. What does light do? What should we do to be light?

Use items 5b, 1-5 as a visual as you discuss what our light should do.

1. Lights purpose is to **eliminate darkness**. If you enter a dark room and turn on the light then the darkness disappears. Even a small light will eliminate some of the darkness. You should be that light. When you enter a place that is filled with darkness or sin everything should change. You should be the person that brings joy when there is only gloom. Be the person that has good things to say instead of griping. Be the person the reaches out to help someone that is struggling or hurting. Why do we let our light shine? Matthew 5:16 says people will see the good we do and praise God. The things we do can cause people to praise God. Because you are

nice to that person that is all alone, because you help someone in need, because you refuse to participate in what is wrong, people will see and praise God. Sometimes we think the good things we do will not make a difference, but God says it does. It causes people to praise God, to think of God, maybe to turn to God themselves. Be a light.

2. Light should also **expose** the cause of **darkness**. In other words if we shine then people should be able to see the difference between good and evil. Light exposes darkness and the contrast shows sin for what it really is. Live as God wants one to live. Read Ephesians 5:8-11. We only expose the darkness if we are different than darkness. Verse eight tells us to live as children of light. Verse nine tells us that children of light are growing in goodness, righteousness and truth. Are those things growing in your life? We should find out what pleases God (verse 10) and have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness (verse 11). Refuse to lie to your parents. Refuse to cheat on a test. Refuse to use bad language. Don't watch or listen to things that make fun of people or use bad language. Choose to be different than the people living in darkness.
3. Light should be an **exit** from **darkness**. People in darkness do not know where to go. We (the light) must go into the darkness. Sometimes we just want to be with other Christians and we should have good Christian friends, but if we don't go into the dark places then no one can see our light. We cannot offer light to others if we refuse to get to know those people that need the light. Light provides safety. Be a safe place for people that are hurting. Show them God's love. If someone is looking for or needs a way out of darkness be able to tell them about God.
4. Light should **enlighten**—make everything bright—more easily understood. **Matthew 5:14** says, you cannot hide a city set on a hill. Because of the darkness of the night the city lights can be seen a long way away. Verse 15 says no one lights a lamp then covers it up. You put a lamp where it can do its best work. We function as light when the words and actions of our lives show the light of God. Do you let others see your light or do you try to hide it? We must be a light for the world. Without the light of God the world is a dark and confusing place.

### **Apply the Lesson:**

So I really should not have to wear a nametag that says I am a Christian. The way I live my life should show that I am a Christian. My life should shine for God.

Do you like glow in the dark stuff? There are hundreds of products that glow in the dark like t-shirts, stickers, nail polish, posters, paint, jewelry, even golf balls. Here is an easy way to remember this lesson. I am going to give you a glow in the dark item to help you remember that Christians are glow in the dark people. Did you ever think of it that way? Jesus says, let your light shine. We live in a dark world so if we shine, if we glow we are glowing in the darkness. That is a challenge for you to take with you from camp. Each morning as you begin to face a new day remind yourself to glow in the dark. Go light our world.

**Memory Verse:**

Our memory verse today is Ephesians 5:8, *“For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”* Have the students say the verse together and then let several students say it on their own. Use your motions if you want to.

**Option 1:** Give each child a black sheet of construction paper and a glow in the dark marker or crayon. Have them write the verse on the paper. Provide glow-in-the-dark stickers to decorate the verse if so desired.

**Option 2:** In advance write each word of the verse in white crayon on a white paper. Have the students use markers to color all the papers so that the words of the verse appear. Then have the group put the words in order.

While students are working on the verse discuss what they can do specifically to live as children of light.

**Closing:**

Pray that all of the students will want to be light in the world. Pray that they will live as God wants them to and that people will praise God for these students.

**Extra Challenge:**

Play “How could you shine?” During different activities during the day ask students how they could shine while doing this. For example, “How could you shine while standing in line in the cafeteria? How could you shine while walking to the tower? How could you shine in worship service?”