



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 42

Walk in the Light

Primary Scripture: John 8:12; 1 John 1:5-8

Key Verse: John 8:12, “When Jesus spoke...’I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’” (NIV)

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to see their lives as spiritual journeys. They regularly make choices which affect their spiritual well being. If they choose to follow Jesus, they walk in his light. If they choose to ignore him, they walk in darkness. Children need to understand the importance of those decisions and the privilege of walking in the light. Jesus gave his life for us so that we might have a clear path to follow—filled with his light.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus is the light of the world. He gave his life for us so that we would be filled with his light.

Jesus in us: As we trust in Jesus, we become the light of the world. His light fills our lives and we, too, can let our light shine.

Jesus through us: The light of Jesus shines through us so that others might come to the light.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: four or five obstacles to be placed onstage—e.g., chair, box, materials, a stand that could fall over and make a crashing noise... anything that creates an obstacle to walking across the stage

In advance, position someone near the lights to turn the lights off before you walk across the stage. Stand at one end of the stage as you say:

Let's imagine we are all on a journey through life. It is like taking a walk. The other end is our destination.

Point toward the other end of the stage.

At the end of our journey, we will be face to face with God. It will be wonderful. But look at the obstacles we may have along the way. These obstacles can get in the way of our final destination. So, we have to walk around the obstacles. That won't be a problem at all. To illustrate, I'm going to do that now.

As you begin the walk, suddenly the lights go off. Make as much noise as you would like as you crash and tumble into the obstacles. Say "ouch" as you bump into things.

Lights come back on and the presenter is sitting on the floor in the middle of the obstacles.

Maybe there is a better way I could have done this. I was doing just fine while the lights were on. But when it went dark, I had problems.

Today we will talk about how God wants us to walk in the light. We won't bump into the obstacles of life when we walk in his way and follow his path. God gave his Son Jesus as the light of the world. When we follow him, we won't walk in darkness and stumble into things. We will be able to stay on the path that he has for us to get to our final destination.

Let's worship God now. As we do, we are no longer living in the darkness but in the light that he has given us in Jesus.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Point out the wreckage onstage that was created when you stumbled in the darkness.

Look at all the wreckage left behind when I tried to walk in the darkness. It turned out to be a noisy, ugly mess. It even hurt when I bumped into things. What was the problem? The lights went out and I walked in the darkness.

Have you ever walked in the darkness and bumped into something... and it created a wreck or mess?

Did you know that spiritually we could mess up our lives, creating wreckage? This happens when we ignore God and do not walk in his ways or follow his light. The Bible calls it walking in the darkness. We can stumble, we can fall, and we can get hurt.

What we need to do is to turn on the light. How do we do that? When we make mistakes or when we do wrong things and don't follow God, we need to go to Jesus for his light. Jesus' light shines on us with forgiveness and he gives us the power to walk with him. Let's do that now.

Dear God, anytime we disobey you or don't follow you, it is like turning out the light and walking in darkness. It makes a wreck out of our lives. We think right now of ways we disobeyed you recently. Pause.

Maybe we were mean to someone else. Maybe we disobeyed our parents. Maybe we cheated and thought we got away with it, because no one else saw it. But you did—and we were hiding in the darkness. We are hiding in the darkness right now if we pretend our sin doesn't matter. Please help us not walk in darkness. Forgive us our sin because Jesus gave his life for us. Help us to walk in the light as Jesus is in the light. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Let's worship God who always brings us into his light.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: a flashlight or lamp to make a circle of light on the floor

Ask the kids to come and lay their offerings inside the circle of light. As they do, they step into the light. Say:

God invites us to show our love to him by giving our offerings. When we do this, we are not only stepping into his light, but, also, these offerings are used to help other people see his light.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Through the Valley of Pit Monsters (and into the light)

Supplies: flashlight(s) or lamp(s) to create a circle of light; hula hoops or masking tape to make circles, another flashlight with a cross taped to it

Set up:

Place a lamp or flashlight in the center of the room so that it creates a circle of light on the floor. This is home base. Around this area place hula hoops or tape so that there is enough room for children to move around the hula hoops without stepping in them. These areas (*the hula hoops or tape circles*) are called Darkness Pits.

This set-up will take some thinking through. As kids play the role of Pit Monsters, they must be able to jump from Darkness Pit to Darkness Pit in their pursuit of tagging travelers on their way to the home base light.

Objective of the Game:

Kids travel from any side of the room through the Valley of Pit Monsters to safety in the circle of light without stepping in the hoops (or tape circles) or getting tagged by a Pit Monster.

Directions:

Boys and girls, welcome to the journey through the Valley of Pit Monsters. The object of the game is to get you into the light. The light is home base.

I would like all of you to spread out and touch the outside walls of this room. This room, if you use your imagination, has now become the Valley of Pit Monsters. Each one of these circles is a Darkness Pit. Pit Monsters live in these pits.

I need four volunteers to be Pit Monsters.

Select volunteers. Have them stand randomly in the various Darkness Pits.

The Pit Monsters will try to keep you from your destination by tagging you, but they can only step in the Darkness Pits. If they ever step on ground out of the Pit, they shrivel up and must sit down, unable to catch anyone on their way to the light.

In the center of the room is the light. It is our journey's destination. It is where you want to be.

Dim the lights of the room.

Notice that the lights in this room have been dimmed. If you can get to the lighted home base, you are safe from the Pit Monsters. On your way there, be sure not to be tagged by a Pit Monster. If you do, you will become trapped in the Darkness Pit. I sure wouldn't want to be that person.

Let's see who can make it to home base. Are you ready?

Release the kids. If you have a large group (*over 15*), release the kids according to grade (*e.g. first graders, second graders, etc...*). After the game is over, have all the kids remain in their final position and discuss.

How many of you liked it when you were caught by the Pit Monsters and had to stay in the Darkness Pit?

What you need is someone who can rescue you from the Darkness Pit. Wait a minute. I see someone now.

Have a volunteer kid take a flashlight or lamp with a cross on it from the home base light. Have them go to the Darkness Pits and shine the light on the kids, releasing them to go to home base.

Repeat the game with new Pit Monsters.

Teaching Point:

Gather kids all together to discuss:

During the game while we were in the darkness, we were in danger of being caught by the Pit Monsters. But if we were in the light, we were safe.

In reality, we are on a journey through life just like we went through the Valley of Pit Monsters. We walk in the light by trusting Jesus as our Savior. When we follow Jesus, he gives us his light.

The Pit Monsters are symbolic of the Devil who wants to keep us from the light of Jesus. The Devil wants to trap us in sin and selfishness that hurt us. He wants these obstacles to keep us from reaching our destiny with Jesus.

Jesus came into our world as the light. Even when we are trapped and fall into sin, he can get us out. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we can be freed from the traps the devil has set for us by turning from that sin and walking with Jesus.

How does Jesus help us escape our traps of sin? Remember, Jesus went to the pit of darkness himself when he went to the cross. He took the darkness of sin on himself and was sacrificed in our place. Then he went into the pit of Hell and announced to the Devil that he was defeated. Jesus rose from the dead, defeating death and the Devil.

The Devil does not have the power to hold anyone who trusts in Jesus. This was represented in our game by the one who carried the light (*flashlight or lamp*) and released those captured or trapped by the Pit Monsters.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Use a flashlight and have a child come forward and read John 8:12. Say:

God's word is a light that guides us on the journey of life.

Then have another child who is a good reader come forward and read 1 John 1:5-8.

Then say:

Remember, kids, the key teaching verse in John 8:12: “When Jesus spoke... ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” (NIV)

Application:

Supplies needed: cards from appendix, light to make a circle on stage

In advance, tape the following cards to the obstacles on stage.

Pull cards from the obstacle, one at a time, and ask the children how he/she would answer the challenge. Invite a kid to the stage (*for each challenge*) to tell others what he/she would do if they faced that obstacle.

Possible responses of “walking in the light” are in italics.

Card #1:

A friend at school decides that he/she no longer wants to be your friend. He/she even says bad things about you behind your back. What do you do? (*Pray for that friend, be kind to him/her, ask him/her what you did to make them not like you and apologize if you wronged them, etc.*)

Card #2:

Someone tells you that God is not real because you can't see him. He/she challenges you to prove God is there. Maybe you are beginning to wonder yourself. What do you do? (*Share times when you experienced God's help in your life, i.e., how he answered your prayers. Talk about how it takes faith to believe a lot of things one can't see, i.e., that there is air to breathe, etc. Tell how you have faith that the Bible is true.*)

Card #3:

You have done something very wrong, but nobody knows about it. You are worried about getting caught and someone finding out. What do you do? (*Confess it to someone and try to make it right.*)

Card #4:

You feel like you have made too many mistakes and God would never let you into heaven. What do you do? (*Believe God's word that says God forgives any and all sins and wants all his children to be with him in heaven. Don't believe the lies Satan tells us like this one.*)

Card #5:

You are worried because you have problems at home. It seems that nobody is getting along very well. What do you do? (PRAY. Talk to someone that might be able to help or would pray for you, also.)

CLOSING PRAYER

The Bible says that if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

What does it mean to have fellowship with one another? It means that we can walk with the light of Jesus as we interact with other people who are also following him. This is more than having special friends. This is having other people who will pray for us and support us.

Let us take time to pray for all the special needs and special requests that we have for each other. I'd like you to partner up with another person and find out something that they need prayer for.

Allow time for the pairs to pray for each other's concerns. Kids may need some help with this. For example, kids can ask each other: Do you have anything you are worried about? How does God want you to follow him? How can you be more kind or loving? Is there anyone you know who is very sick or has special troubles and needs God's help?

You may also want to have a circle of light onstage. Have a special prayer line where kids can come to pray for their concerns or have a roving microphone move to those who would like to pray.

Conclude by saying:

What we have been experiencing is a picture of us having fellowship with one another.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Let kids share a time they saw God help them through an obstacle when they walked in “his light” and not according to their own way.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- four or five obstacles to be placed onstage—e.g., chair, box, materials, a stand that could fall over and make a crashing noise... anything that creates an obstacle to walking across the stage

Offering:

- a flashlight or lamp to make a circle of light on the floor

Learning Game:

- flashlight(s) or lamp(s) to create a circle of light
- hula hoops or masking tape to make circles
- one lamp or flashlight with a paper cross taped to it

Application:

- cards from the Appendix copied on cardstock and precut before class
- *(Optional)* lamp or flashlight to make a circle of light onstage

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Card #1 A friend at school decides that he/she no longer wants to be your friend. He/she even says bad things about you behind your back. What do you do?

Card #2 Someone tells you that God is not real because you can't see him. He/she challenges you to prove God is there. Maybe you are beginning to wonder yourself. What do you do?

Card #3 You've done something very wrong, but nobody knows about it. You are worried about getting caught and someone finding out. What do you do?

Card #4 You feel like you've made too many mistakes and God would never let you into heaven. What do you do?

Card #5 You are worried because you have problems at home. It seems that nobody is getting along very well. What do you do?