



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Meet the God/Man, Jesus  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 36

# Jesus—The Light

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus is the light of the world who shines through us. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Mark 4:21-22, Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12

**Key Verse:** Matthew 5:16, “In the same way let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.”

**We will help kids know:**

- Jesus said he was the light of the world and we, as his followers, can shine with God’s love by giving of ourselves to others.
- We have a responsibility to penetrate the world of darkness with God’s light.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Conviction and courage to shine Jesus’ light among their friends and family.
- Privileged to reflect God’s light in their lives.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify hindrances that keep their light from shining.
- Pray for specific ways in which each individual might shine the love of Jesus into their world.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	A volunteer must go through "obstacles" to find the answer to "life's big secret for happiness".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sheet of paper prepared beforehand which says "Giving of Yourself." This paper needs to be folded up and placed in an envelope labeled "Life's Big Secret for Happiness"</li> <li>• blindfold</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7-9  10-12  12-13	<b>Overview</b>  <b>"Meet the God/Man" Game Show</b> ---This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the word "Light."  <b>Bible Presentation:</b> "Light of the World"—Laser lights are used to show how Jesus' light bounces off us and shines to others. Bible readings: John 8:12, Mark 4:21-22 and Matthew 5:14-16.  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy's Laser Gun" – Gordy wants to use his sister's laser gun to shine his light for Jesus. He learns that shining his light for Jesus means giving of himself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy with sunglasses</li> <li>• game show set (see Lesson 33)</li> <li>• sport coat</li> <li>▪ large placards with letters <i>Option:</i> pieces of construction paper with bold letters</li> <li>• game board for letters to be attached to <i>Option:</i> foam core or poster board</li> <li>• bell, horn, or buzzer (two to four)</li> <li>• lamp</li> <li>• large basket or tub to cover the lamp</li> <li>• small pen light laser</li> <li>• two mirrors (at least the size of a large handheld)</li> <li>• a laser light or laser gun taped to Gordy's hand</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	Kids talk about how they can let their lights shine as a reflection of Jesus, the light of the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• votive candle for each group</li> <li>• bowl or tub which will cover the candle</li> <li>• book of matches</li> <li>• paper and pencils or crayons</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Today's lesson introduces Jesus as our Light. Typically, the warm-up time is very clear in presenting the theme for the day. Today and throughout this series, however, the warm-up must be much more subtle in stating the day's theme. The reason for this is that the large group presentation will be in a game show format. Contestants will be trying to guess the theme of the day. Therefore, today we do not want to blatantly mention beforehand that Jesus is our Light. Even if this is not clearly spoken, the kids will be involved in a warm-up activity related to the topic.*

*In advance, write "Giving of Yourself" on a sheet of paper. Fold this paper up and it in an envelope labeled, "Life's Big Secret for Happiness."*

Place the envelope somewhere in your area. Ask for a volunteer to look for "life's big secret for happiness". Explain that he will have to go through an obstacle course to find his answer.

Then, make an obstacle course using the other members of the group standing still as the obstacles and the envelope at the end of the course. (It needs to be a difficult enough course so that it might take several attempts before "life's big secret" is uncovered.) Blindfold the pursuer and tell him to find his way to "life's big secret for happiness" without bumping into the "obstacles".

The pursuer is allowed to study the obstacle course before being blindfolded. He will then try and navigate the course from memory. If the child tries to peek under his blind fold it might be an option to have him walk backwards. If the blindfolded person runs into an obstacle he must let someone else take his place.

Once the envelope is retrieved, bring the kids together and ask them to guess what "life's secret to happiness" might be. Open the envelope and discuss the answer "giving of yourself." How can that be so important?

Challenge the kids to listen carefully to the Bible event in large group to find out why the secret to happiness is *giving*.

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**“Meet the God/Man” Game Show**---This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the word “Light.”

**Bible Presentation:** “Light of the World”—Laser lights are used to show how Jesus’ light bounces off us and shines to others. Bible readings: John 8:12, Mark 4:21-22 and Matthew 5:14-16.

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy’s Laser Gun” – Gordy wants to use his sister’s laser gun to shine his light for Jesus. He learns that shining his light for Jesus means giving of himself.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Read John 8:12.

**Who claims to be the light of the world?** (*Jesus.*)

**What will we have if we follow him?** (*A life filled with light.*)

Read Mark 4:21-22.

**What is “a light” intended to do?** (*Lighten up the room, or let other people see.*)

### Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**What is darkness in our world?** (*Bad things, sin, evil*)

**How did Jesus dispel the darkness?** *(He came into the world as light, exposes sin and forgives us when we sin.)*

**How is Jesus a light to the world?** *(He gave himself to die for our sin and the sins of the world.)*

**Jesus was more interested in giving of himself to others than taking from others. What are other ways Jesus gave himself to others?** *(He served them, healed them, taught them, and helped them.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

### Application Activity:

*Supplies: paper and markers for kids, also each group will need a small votive candle and some type of bowl or tub that will cover the candle. The shepherd will need to have a book of matches available to relight the candle if it goes out during the exercise. It is helpful to have the room darkened throughout this discussion period.*

**Let's talk about how we can give of ourselves to others. This is a way that we are a light to the world.**

Pass out a piece of paper and markers to each student.

**I would like every person here to think of a way you can give of yourselves to someone else. When you think of something, draw a picture of it. Let's answer some questions to help you get some ideas about it.**

Light the candle and read John 8:12 and Matthew 5:14.

**Who is the light of the world?** *(Jesus is and he says that we can be, too. He also says that his light will expose the truth; it will show who it is that is truly following him.)*

**What do you think it means to be the light of the world? In the warm-up exercise, we found that "life's big secret to happiness" is to "give of yourself." Did Jesus do that? How did Jesus give of himself?** *(He died on the cross for our sins; he is with us today.)*

**How did Jesus give of himself to God?** *(He obeyed God when he came into the world for us.)*

**How did Jesus give of himself to others?** *(Yes. He helped people, healed them, taught them, and died on the cross for them. Jesus showed that he was the light of the world by giving of himself to God and to others.)*

**We also are to be lights that reflect Jesus, the light of the world. How**

can we “give of ourselves” to God? (*Offerings, prayer, worship.*)

**We are lights that shine in the world when we give of ourselves (like Jesus) to others. Then we are a reflection of him.**

- How can we give of ourselves to our brother or sister?
- How can we give of ourselves to our mom or dad?
- How can we give of ourselves to someone who might be picked on at school?
- How can we give of ourselves to someone who does not know Jesus as his or her Savior?

After some discussion, let the children begin drawing their pictures. Tell them that they will show their picture to the group and see if the group can guess what they were thinking of. While they are drawing, distract them by taking a bucket and placing it over the candle. This is especially effective if you darken the room enough so they can barely see what they are drawing. Say:

**The light doesn't do any good when a bucket covers it just as Jesus taught. This is like someone who doesn't let their light shine by saying they don't want to do what Jesus wants. Instead, they do only what they want. Sins, such as disobedience, stubbornness or resentment, can block the light.**

Remove the covering from the light and conclude on a positive note as children share ways that they can be a light to the world. Reinforce the take home point ***\*Jesus is the light of the world who shines through us.***

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for sending his Son Jesus to be the light of the world. Pray for God's power to give of ourselves to others so we can also be “light to the world.” Pray for specific ways kids can “let their lights shine”.

**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.

# **Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes**

## **“Meet the God/Man” Game Show**

*The large group format for the “Meet the God/Man” series is a game show. The large group presenter is the game show host and Gordy is an assistant who ad-libs comments during the game show. Immediately after the game show, Gordy helps introduce the topic discussed that day. He does this with a brief scripted dialog, in which he presents a typical view of a third grade boy.*

*The more creative the set is for this game show, the more fun it can be for adults and children alike. In advance, gather adults to help with special props or decor. The large group presenter needs to have a bright or colorful sport coat or something to serve as a game show host costume. This will help the kids know when he is functioning as a game show host and when he is presenting the Bible event.*

*Throughout the series, large placards with letters will be necessary to make the mystery word and provide visual effect for the game. Today’s mystery word is “light.” The God/man, Jesus, is the “light.” Five placards with the letters spelling “light” need to be available. Number the letters like below. As contestants answer questions, these letters are attached or turned over on the board or the wall. Be creative in your own facility as to how these letters can be posted. Foam core or poster board might be excellent backing.*

*The game format operates as follows:*

*The official beginning comes with the kids singing the “God/Man” theme song or a song of your choice that enhances the theme. It will be used throughout the series. To receive your copy of the music, go to. [http://www.awaken.nu/music\\_godman.php](http://www.awaken.nu/music_godman.php) You can download the mp3 file (sample) for free or purchase a CD (includes trax and demo) for \$5.00, plus shipping and handling. Sheet music is \$3.00 plus shipping and handling.*

*Gordy then introduces the game show host. The game show host welcomes all of the contestants to the game “Who Is the God/Man?” (A game show sign would be helpful.) They would then randomly select contestants from the ping-pong ball container. Two boys and two girls should be selected to represent the team of each gender. Give the children the option of picking someone near them to substitute for them if they do not want to come up and be part of the show. This will compensate for kids who are shy.*

*The game show is conducted before the Bible event is read. Kids are guessing the answers, but then are better prepared to hear the main points of the Bible reading that is read after the game show.*

*The game show host will read a question and the contestants will beep in with a bell, a horn, or a buzzer. Whoever beeps first gets to answer the question. If they beep in before the question is completely asked, the host will not tell them the rest of the*

question. If they answer the question correctly, they get a chance to look at one of the letters to be placed on the board. They will have five seconds to guess what the word is that describes who our God/Man is. If they fail to answer the question correctly after beeping in, the other team can answer the question following an additional clue. If that team correctly answers, then they will have five seconds to guess the descriptor for the God/Man. If neither team correctly answers the question, the letter is still revealed for the clue though no one is allowed to guess the word.

Typically, the kids will guess the word before all of the letters are given. Whichever team does this, wins the game. It might be interesting to keep a weekly tally of who is doing the best job. Nonetheless, it is still fun and helpful to complete the clues even after the word has been guessed. The remaining clues are given to Gordy so the questions can quickly be covered.

**Clue Sheet**  
**“Meet the God/Man” Game**  
Mark 4:21-22

L - I - G - H - I  
5   2   1   4   3

For letter number one, can you answer the following? Last week Jesus talked about the seed and the sower. What did the seed stand for?

- A. *The kingdom of God.***
- B. *The Word.***
- C. *Peanut butter sandwich.***

(Answer: B. *The Word.*)

**You win the letter G! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.**

For letter number two, can you tell me the following from last week’s lesson? The birds ate the seed that fell along the path. This means that the truth of God can be stolen by:

- A. *Satan.***
- B. *Giant birds.***
- C. *Peanut butter sandwiches.***

(Answer: A. *Satan.*)



**You win the letter I! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.**

**For letter number three, can you tell me the following from last week's lesson? The seed that fell in the good soil produced fruit or more seed. How much fruit did it produce?**

- A. Enough grain to make seven peanut butter sandwiches.**
- B. Seven times more.**
- C. Thirty, sixty, or a hundred times more**

**(Answer: C. Thirty, sixty, or a hundred times more)**

**You win the letter T! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.**

**For letter number four, guess the following about today's lesson. Jesus will talk about how not to use a lamp. He will say, "You don't light a lamp and then place \_\_\_\_\_ over it." What should you not place over it?**

- A. Peanut butter sandwich.**
- B. Your hat.**
- C. A bushel basket.**

**(Answer: C. A bushel basket.)**

**You win the letter H! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.**

**For letter number five, can you tell me the following? Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world."**

- A. Peanut butter sandwich**
- B. Light.**
- C. Moon beam.**

**(Answer: B. Light.)**

**You win the letter L! And the God/Man is....the Light!**

# Light of the World

## Bible Presentation

*Props: Use a lamp and some type of large basket or tub that will cover the light. These two objects will be used for the reading and visualizing of today's lesson. The visual application is then continued with the use of a small pen light laser and two mirrors (at least the size of a large handheld).*

The presenter lights the lamp and reads John 8:12 (GW):

***Jesus spoke to the Pharisees again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark."***

The presenter holds the lantern high as he asks, **"Who is the light of the world?"**

He then sets the lamp on the ground and picks up the basket as he reads the next scripture. Mark 4:21-22 (GW):

***Jesus said to them, "Does anyone bring a lamp into a room to put it under a basket or under a bed?"***

At this time he places the basket over the lamp but does not have enough light by which to read. Upon creating such confusion and asking the kids what to do, he removes the basket and continues:

***"Isn't it put on a lamp stand? There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed. There is nothing kept secret that will not come to light."***

The presenter briefly explains that, as Jesus is a light to the world, he will show clearly who is following him and who is not. This is what he says in Matthew 5:14-16 (GW):

***"You are light for the world . . . No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead, everyone who lights a lamp puts it on a lamp stand. Then its light shines on everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven."***

Continue with:

**Who is the light of world? (Jesus.) Jesus says his light will shine on what is true. His light will show who is following him and who is not. Then he says someone else will be the light of the world. Who is that? (Those who follow him and let their light shine for him.)**

**Let me see if I can give you another picture of how that works.**

At this point two other people in the room should be already stationed with mirrors. They need very steady hands or need to have their mirrors on a stable object.

Darken the room. The large group presenter will have a pen laser light that he will shine at one mirror. That mirror will reflect the light across to the mirror on the other side of the room. The second mirror will reflect the light back to the front of the room. In other words, the light would make a large triangle by reflecting off two mirrors. (Practice this beforehand.)

It may be necessary to have the laser and first mirror positioned on a stable table so that there is no unsteady hand complicating the accuracy of the beam. Also, some pen light lasers have attachments that emit different shapes such as a heart. This might be used to even better illustrate the teaching point that follows.

**Boys and girls, Jesus used a lamp to talk about himself as being the light of the world and about giving his light to us so that we can become a light to the world, as well.**

**Today we might tell the same story and use a laser light. This laser light might remind us of Jesus. Jesus is the one who said he is the “light of the world.” He came into the world and gave his life to others. He did that for us when he died on the cross and rose again. He paid the price for our sin and then promised to live with us in our hearts. So what Jesus did was to give himself to us.**

**So now, look at the first mirror. That is like us. When Jesus gave himself to us, it is his light coming into our lives. Because we know, love and follow Jesus, we want to give of ourselves to others. That is life’s secret to happiness: Giving our lives to others and watching what happens. Jesus’ light bounces off of us and shines to others. See how it hits the other mirror? *\*Jesus is the light of the world who shines through us.* That happens when we give of ourselves to others. Now, Jesus’ light shines into others’ lives and through them, as well. It will then shine on another person and another and another.**

**What would happen if I put a basket over the first mirror? (*The light would not reflect off of it.*)**

Place a basket or obstacle to block the light.

**If we decide that we don’t want to receive Jesus and his power in our lives, then it would be just like blocking the light. Then we wouldn’t have his power in our lives to give of ourselves to others and let his light shine through us. But, if we say since Jesus gave himself for me, I can give myself to others and help them; then the beam will come from Jesus into our lives and bounce to others.**

**Today we will challenge you in Small Group to think of ways you can give of yourselves to others so you can show how *\*Jesus is the light of the world who shines through us.***

## **Gordy's Laser Gun**

### **Puppet Presentation**

*Gordy appears immediately after the Bible Presentation. He has a laser light or laser gun taped to his hand. (Taping a laser pen light to a squirt gun can make a simple laser gun.)*

**Mr. King: Oh, hi, Gordy, so what do you think?**

Gordy: I think it's cool that we're playing with lasers so I brought my own laser gun. *(Laser light)*

**Mr. King: So this is your own laser, huh?**

Gordy: Well, not exactly. It's my sister's but she's not here, so I just brought it when I knew we were playing with lasers.

**Mr. King: Well, that's fine, Gordy, but did you have permission from her?**

Gordy: Are you kidding? My sister would never let me play with this! So if I want to play with it, I have to sneak around and take it when she's not looking. Now, how do we play this laser game?

**Mr. King: Gordy, wait a minute. This isn't a laser game. It's a way of showing how *\*Jesus is the light of the world who shines in our lives* so we can give of ourselves to others.**

Gordy: Well then, how do I play?

**Mr. King: First of all, you have to give back the laser gun.**

Gordy: What? How can I play without it?

**Mr. King: Gordy, it was wrong to take it without asking. You were only thinking of yourself. Jesus says that when his light shines in you, you don't just think about yourself. Instead, you think of others. You can even give of yourself to others.**

Gordy: I don't know if this sounds as much fun as playing laser tag.

**Mr. King: Now wait a minute, Gordy, it really is. It may not seem like it at first but, when you give of yourself to others, and when you put them**

**first, God gives you a deep joy inside your heart. You don't worry as much about your own problems or just trying to get what you want.**

Gordy: You mean, I would have to even do that for my sister?

**Mr. King: Yes, Gordy. And you would begin by taking back the laser gun and apologizing.**

Gordy: Are you sure?

**Mr. King: Yes, but when you do, Jesus' light will be shining through you. You will be giving of yourself to another person. You might even give her something special or do a favor for her since you took it.**

Gordy: Are you sure?

**Mr. King: Yes, Gordy. Try it. You'll find it can be a great secret to happiness; giving of yourself to others because Jesus' light is shining through you.**

Gordy: Well, I guess I'll give it a try. Anyway it looks like we aren't going to play laser tag anymore today.

**Mr. King: Not here, but who knows...maybe you can play laser tag with your sister.**

Gordy: Oh, now that's a cool idea! I can use her laser and chase her around the house and then....

**Mr. King: Gordy, why don't you pray about it?**

Gordy: Okay.

**Mr. King: Please close us with prayer.**

Gordy: Dear God, thank you that Jesus is the light of the world, and he gave himself for us. We do need him in our lives. We want his light to shine through us, so help us give of ourselves to others even if it is people like our sisters. And also, please help my sister to not be mad when I borrowed her laser gun without asking. In Jesus' name, Amen.