



Date: _____

Series: The Best Gift All—Jesus
Winter Year 4, Lesson 29

Jesus is the Gift of Light

Take Home Point: *Jesus is the light that guides our lives. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 1:1-9 and 3:16-21

Key Verse: John 8:12, "Jesus...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."

We will help kids know:

- Jesus is the light of the world given as a gift to us.
- Jesus' life is a light that helps us see truth clearly.
- The light of God is the life of Jesus. He gave his life for us on the cross.
- Jesus' life guides us.
- As we turn away from the light (*Jesus*), we are left in darkness, but as we turn towards the light (*Jesus*), he empowers us to see clearly.




We will help kids feel:

- Not afraid to move closer to Jesus and his light, especially if they are feeling darkness or shame.
- Secure in knowing Jesus' light fills them and guides them.

We will help kids do:

- Discover that God's light can guide and show us the right and true way to live.
- Make glow stick necklaces to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes) 	3	Students discuss the dark days they have had in their lives and how God's love and forgiveness is like a light that guides and shows us a better way to live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> one glow stick per group small piece of paper pen/pencil
Large Group (20-30 minutes) 	4 7 9 9 10	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Sees the Light"—Gordy wants to keep his wrongdoing hidden. Video: <i>The Gospel of John</i> --- John 1:1-9, 3:16-21 Gifts R Us – Part 2: "Jesus is the Gift of Light" Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy Sees the Light"—Gordy learns why God wants us to face the light and not live in darkness. The light of God is the life of Jesus. Jesus gave his life so our sins would be forgiven and his light continues to shine in our lives when we let him guide us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy Santa hat flashlight glow sticks box wrapped like a gift with a removable lid sign with "Jesus, the Best Gift" to go on gift box (p 14) large printed sign like a store marquee: "Gifts R Us" salesman costume: briefcase, hat video – <i>The Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International 2003 (order from www.visualbible.com) transcript of video for volunteer to follow (p. 12-13)
Small Group Application (20-25 minutes) 	4	Kids will make their own glow stick necklaces. Just like the light guides us in the dark, Jesus has given us light in our hearts that is a guide for living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a glow stick for each child string for necklace highlighters to underline the word "light"

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.

Supplies: A glow stick already activated (keep it hidden before the demonstration), small piece of paper and pen/pencil

Can you remember something you did wrong that your parents or teachers didn't find out? Or maybe they didn't know about it at first, but later found out. For an example, I remember one time when I was a child, I...

Share an example of something you did as a child that was wrong and no one found out about it. Then give time for kids to share their stories. *Don't force kids to talk who don't feel comfortable sharing this.*

How does remembering that incident or wrongdoing make you feel right now?

Again, some kids may answer in front of the group and others will want to just keep it to themselves. Some answers may be: embarrassed, sad, bad, shameful, and guilty.

The Bible uses the word "darkness" to describe a condition or feeling. It's something that happens to people when they have done something wrong and they hide it...especially, if they don't want to stop doing it. Sometimes this darkness describes people who disobey God but say that what they are doing is okay. That's because they don't want to do things God's way.

Dim the lights. Take out the small piece of paper and pencil and write down a word that describes doing something against God's way. Wad the paper up and hide it in your hand.

Let's imagine this piece of paper is something that I've done wrong. I may not want to change or I don't want God to see this thing I have done. So I wad it up and hide it.

Show glow stick.

Let's imagine that this glow stick is God's light. If Jesus was this light and he was shining right here, would you want to open your hand and let his light shine on what you've done wrong? Why or why not?

Show how the glow stick can light up the word on the paper.

God wants us to come to his light with our hands open. No matter what we have ever done, God will love us and forgive us if we turn to him. His light shows us what we have done wrong, but also shows us how we can be forgiven. The light can then guide us away from the darkness and show us the right and true way to live.

For example, can anyone share when they did something wrong but they felt better after they were caught because they didn't have to hide it anymore?

Discuss.

Today, we will discover that **Jesus is the gift of light that guides our lives.*

Large Group Overview: 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.*

Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Sees the Light"—Gordy wants to keep his wrongdoing hidden.

Video: *The Gospel of John*---John 1:1-9, 3:16-21

Gifts R Us – Part 2: "Jesus is the Gift of Light"

Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy Sees the Light"—Gordy learns why God wants us to face the light and not live in darkness. The light of God is the life of Jesus. Jesus gave his life so our sins would be forgiven and his light continues to shine in our lives when we let him guide us.

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?

Have kids use highlighting markers to underline in their Bibles: the word, "light" in John 1:4-9, 3:19-21, 8:12, 9:5, 12:35-36, 46. Ask the following questions while they look up these passages.

Who is the real light that John 1:4-9 refers to? (*Jesus.*)

Why do people live in the dark? (*John 3:19-20. Some would rather continue to do evil. They don't come to the light because they don't want their actions to be exposed.*)

How can you receive a life filled with light? (*John 8:12. Follow Jesus. Acknowledge that Jesus died for your sins and receive his love and forgiveness.*)

Why has the light come into the world? (*John 12:46. So that everyone who believes in Jesus will not live in the dark.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Jesus is the light. So who or what is the "dark" in John 1:5? (*Satan and/or evil.*)

What do you think the following means? "*The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.*" (*The enemy can never overpower God's love and forgiveness.*)

How does "someone who has a life filled with light and never lives in the darkness" look to you?

How do you think it looks for someone to live in the dark?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Do you recall the question I asked you in small group Warm-Up about feeling better when your wrongdoing was out in the open? That is what we call repenting of or confessing our sins.

Do you know what God wants to give you next? He wants to give you forgiveness so his light shines in your life. This is called the “light of life.” It means that Jesus himself is living in your life and gives you his light to guide you.

Application Activity:

Supplies: a glow stick for every child, a string used to make a necklace for the glow stick

Make a glow stick necklace for kids to wear.

Let’s make these glow stick necklaces to remind us that if we follow Jesus as our Savior, he is the light of life and lives right in our hearts. These glow sticks are right next to our hearts.

In John 8:12, Jesus says, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark.”*

How can we show that we have the light of the world living in our hearts? How can we shine for Jesus?

As we make these necklaces, lets think of some ways Jesus might guide us so we can shine for him this Christmas season. For example, is there someone for whom you can be praying? Or someone you could visit who is lonely? Or someone you could show kindness toward?

The true light is the life of Jesus. Remember **Jesus is the light that guides our lives.*

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for sending Jesus as a living light in this dark world. Pray for all to shine with Jesus’ light in the darkness. Pray for some of the specific ways kids mentioned that they might shine this Christmas season.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The Best Gift of All – Jesus Series

This series looks at the book of John and how Jesus is a gift to each one of us. Each week a different object will be presented to remind the kids of Jesus. A child from the audience will have a chance to guess how the gift reminds them of Jesus.

Each week the gift is brought out with a sign that reads, “Jesus is the Gift.” The large group presenter, who each week becomes the salesperson for the store “Gifts R Us,” will introduce the gifts. The presenter will help lead the children to a different aspect of Jesus being the real gift. The children will also view a portion of the video The Gospel of John in conjunction with the gift being presented.

Props needed: Gordy, Santa hat, flashlight, glow sticks, box wrapped like a gift with a removable lid, “Gifts R Us” marquee, sign with “Jesus, the Best Gift” to go on gift box, video – The Gospel of John

Gordy Sees the Light

Presenter: Hi, kids. Welcome to Kingdom Quest. Shall we call out Gordy?

Gordy enters wearing a Santa hat and has a flashlight taped to his hand.

Presenter: Gordy, I can see that you are in the Christmas spirit.

Gordy: Sure am.

Presenter: You even have a flashlight. What’s that about?

Gordy: Well, I was working on some Christmas shopping and I thought I would get my dad a flashlight.

Presenter: That’s a great idea for a gift.

Gordy: Thanks. I thought so, too.

Presenter: And, it is better to think about what you can give to others, not just what you can get.

Gordy: Especially if it is a flashlight for your dad.

Presenter: That’s right.

Gordy: Especially if you broke his flashlight.

Presenter: Uh, oh.

Gordy: Especially if your dad told you not to play with it, but you did anyway and then you broke it.

Presenter: Gordy, I can tell you are in trouble.

Gordy: No. Not yet.

Presenter: What do you mean?

Gordy: He doesn't know.

Presenter: Oh. So are you going to tell him?

Gordy: No. I'm just going to switch this new one for the broken one.

Presenter: Gordy, why are you going to do that?

Gordy: I don't want to get in trouble.

Presenter: It's always better to tell what happened, especially with your dad. I bet he will understand and forgive you.

Gordy: Well, sometimes I think it is better to try and not get caught. I don't want anyone to know what I did.

Presenter: Gordy, today we are talking about Jesus as a light.

Gordy: You mean like a flashlight?

Presenter: No, as a light to the world. A light that lights up our lives.

Gordy: You mean like a flashlight?

Presenter: No, like a light inside your heart that illuminates the wrong things you have done so Jesus can forgive you and you don't have to hide from him. It will help guide you.

Gordy: So, it is like a flashlight. Flashlights help guide us.

Presenter: I guess you're right.

Gordy: And flashlights help us see things.

Presenter: I guess you're right again. So, Gordy, let's take a look at the book of John. The gospel of John is filled with the word "light." John was a disciple of Jesus. When John wrote this book about Jesus' life, he often talked about light. Let's watch this video clip. Gordy, can I borrow your flashlight? I'm going to have someone shine the light on the cross every time the word light is mentioned.

Pick a volunteer from the audience to follow along with the video and shine the flashlight on the cross every time the word light is mentioned.

Presenter: Kids, listen and pay careful attention to when the word "light" is mentioned.

Video

Have a volunteer come up and shine a flashlight onto the cross everytime he/she hears the word "light" in John 1:1-9.. You can have another volunteer come forward and do the same for John 3:16-21. Pick the second volunteer while the video is being cued up to the second reading. See also the appendix for addition ideas.

Show video, *The Gospel of John*: John 1:1-9, 3:16-21.

The key word is LIGHT. To show John 1:1-9, set start time at :53 and stop time at 2:27. The text will say: "...the light that comes into the world and shines on all people." Stop.

To show the next reference, John 3:16-21, set start time at 22:20 and stop time at 23:20. The text will say: "...that the light may show that what he did was in obedience to God." Stop. *It will take some time to fast forward in between chapters.*

Note: The Bible translation used in the video is from the *Good News Bible*. You can add the words from the video to the bottom as subtitles. Go to "menu" on the DVD and press "subtitles."

Gifts R Us – Part 2

"Jesus is the Gift of Light"

An assistant brings in a large box with activated glow sticks inside. The box has a sign on it that says "Jesus, the Best Gift."

Presenter: Well, Gordy, as a salesman for Gifts R Us, I've got my box here. Can you guess what is inside?

Gordy: Well, I bet it has to do with Jesus.

Presenter: Good guess. How did you know that?

Gordy: Well, one...we are at Kingdom Quest and, two...getting ready for Christmas is getting ready to receive Jesus, and, three...it says it on the box.

Presenter: Oh, I guess you are right. Jesus, the Best Gift. But what do you think is inside?

Gordy: Well, it's not Jesus.

Presenter: That's right. We can't get him in a box.

Gordy: Is it a flashlight?

Presenter: Close.

Gordy: Does it have something to do with light?

Presenter: You're close again. Let's have a volunteer come up to help you guess.

Have another volunteer come forward. Turn off all the lights. Do not let the volunteer look inside the box, but just lift the cover enough to see the glow from the glow sticks. Ask him/her for suggestions. Take other hints and suggestions from the audience until someone guesses correctly.

Once the volunteer has guessed correctly, empty the glow sticks on a table or on top of the lid so the glow sticks can light up the room.

Gordy Sees the Light

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Wow! That is way cool. That gives off some really awesome light.

Presenter: It sure does, but that is not all. Let me show you how this works. I'm going to ask our volunteer to describe someone sitting in the back of the room where there is little to no light.

Have the volunteer keep his/her back to the light. Ask him/her for some details about the person that would be hard to distinguish in the dim light such as the color of their eyes and/or the small writing on their name tag.

Presenter: What does this teach us?

Gordy: I know. Our volunteer needs glasses.

Presenter: I don't think so, Gordy. Anyone else want to guess?

Right. When you look away from the light you can't see clearly because it is dark. Let's have the person in the back come forward and stand closer to the light and have our volunteer look at him/her now that he/she is facing the light.

Have the child to be described come to the front and stand next to the light.

When we face the light, we see things for how they really are. We can see the truth. When we look to Jesus, we see that he is truly God's Son and he will light up our way so we can follow him. **Jesus is the light that guides our lives.*

Gordy: Well that's cool, but I would kinda like to have one of those glow sticks.

Presenter: You would? What would you do with it?

Gordy: Well, I could take it to my closet where it is dark, so I can really see it glow bright.

Presenter: That's exactly what you should do.

Gordy: It is?

Presenter: Yeah. The glow stick reminds us that Jesus is a light that shines in you so you can go to dark places. You can go where people may not know about Jesus and you can really shine for them.

Gordy: That makes sense.

Presenter: And when we all shine for him, it is a pretty big light. Before we go to small group, why don't we pass out these glow sticks so everyone has one. But first, we will have a prayer together.

Gordy: Dear God, thank you that Jesus 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."* We do believe in Jesus and we don't want to live in darkness. Help us now to take your light and shine it to the world. You have given us the best gift of all with Jesus, and we can shine in him. In his name, we pray. Amen.

Bible Verses

Give to the volunteer so he/she will know when to shine the light on the cross every time the word light is mentioned. Both NIV and GOD'S WORD are listed.

NIV

John 1:1-9

The Word Became Flesh

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the **light** of men. ⁵The **light** shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood^[1] it. ⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that **light**, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the **light**; he came only as a witness to the **light**. ⁹The true **light** that gives **light** to every man was coming into the world.^[2]

John 3:16-21

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,^[1] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.^[2] ¹⁹This is the verdict: **Light** has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of **light** because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the **light**, and will not come into the **light** for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the **light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."^[3]

Gods Word

John 1:1-9

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was already with God in the beginning. ³ Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him. ⁴ He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity. ⁵ The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it. ⁶ God sent a man named John to be his messenger. ⁷ John came to declare the truth about the light so that everyone would become believers through his message. ⁸ John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light. ⁹ The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world. [F1](#)

John 3:16-21

¹⁶ God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him won't be condemned. But those who don't believe are already condemned because they don't believe in God's only Son. ¹⁹ This is why people are condemned: The light came into the world. Yet, people loved the dark rather than the light because their actions were evil. ²⁰ People who do what is wrong hate the light and don't come to the light. They don't want their actions to be exposed. ²¹ But people who do what is true come to the light so that the things they do for God may be clearly seen.

Jesus, The Best Gift