



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 37

The King Is a Prophet

Take Home Point: *Penetrate the world with Jesus' love. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 5:13-16

Key Verse: Matthew 5:16: "...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 is the Prophet. He challenges us to penetrate this world with his love.
- Jesus calls us to live out our lives in a way that is radically different from the ways of the rest of the world.
- "To penetrate" means "to go into something." Jesus calls us to go into the world as his witnesses. Like salt and light, we penetrate the world to give it flavor and light.

We will help kids feel:

- Energized to penetrate their world with Jesus.
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit working in them.

We will help kids do:

- Experience through various activities what it means to penetrate the world.
- Identify those people in their lives whom God is asking them to go and reach for the kingdom.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Use popcorn and salt and/or a lit candle to talk about what it means to penetrate the world for Jesus.	<i>Option 1:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two containers (coffee filters) of popcorn for each group, one salted and one unsalted • popcorn salt or regular salt <i>Option 2:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birthday candle for each child with 4-inch square of aluminum foil to prevent the wax from dripping • matches
Large Group 	4-5 8-10 11-12 13	Overview Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew.</i> Show Matthew 5:13-16. Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and the Pizza Church” Story Telling: “Rachel, Salt and Light” Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy and the Pizza Church”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • video, <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew 5:13-16</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, 1997 • pizza box with a large cookie pizza inside • pizza boxes for every group with cookies inside
Small Group Application 	5-7	Kids do a simple craft that reminds them that God wants us to penetrate the world with his love.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dinner-size plate for each child • small dessert-size plate for each child • coffee filter for each child • spray bottle with water per group • two or three different colors of powdered gelatin per group (with spoons for serving) • crayons • newspaper or paper towels

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.

Small group warm-up will be slightly longer today if both activities are done. To compensate, large group can be made slightly shorter.

Today we are challenging the children to see themselves as salt and light. Like salt, they can penetrate the world to bring flavor and preservation. Like light, they can dispel the darkness. These children can share the message of Jesus to their friends and family. They can even help those who don't know Jesus, meet him as their Savior and Lord.

You have options to do the salt activity, the light activity, or both.

Option 1: Salt

Have two containers of popcorn for your group. (*Coffee filters make good containers and will be used later in the lesson.*) One container of popcorn will be salted and the other will be unsalted. Popcorn salt might even be used for a more dramatic effect.

Ask kids:

We are going to have a popcorn taste test. While we discuss, you can choose some popcorn from either bowl. Which do you like best: salted or unsalted? Why?

Let's discuss where your favorite place to eat popcorn is. For example, do you like eating popcorn while at the movies? How about at home while watching TV? What about having popcorn while you do your homework?

The children will like the salty kind better, but make sure they identify the salt as the reason.

If I sprinkled a little salt on the top of the unsalted popcorn, would that help? (Yes.) But the salt needs to penetrate to be able to be tasted. The word "penetrate" means "to go into something." If the salt is simply sprinkled over one area and can't adequately penetrate the container of popcorn, it doesn't really help.

Option 2: Light

The large group leader will announce that the lights are coming down. If you are not finished with the above activity, finish quickly and move on to this activity.

In this activity, each child will be given a small birthday candle and a four-inch square of aluminum foil. Wrap the candle base in foil to protect fingers from dripping wax.

Wow! This room is pretty dark. But I have a solution. I have a candle for each of you.

Show the children how to light a candle by tipping the unlit candle toward the flame of the lit candle. The lit candle remains still and upright.

As the first candle is lit, notice how it helps light the room to some degree. Also notice how after many candles are lit, the room becomes brighter and brighter.

After the candles are lit, say:

See how the light penetrates the darkness. Another way to say this is that the lights pierce through or enter into the darkness. God asks us to be salt and light to our world. He wants us to penetrate the world. In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus says:

“You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, how will it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. You are light for the world. A city cannot be hidden when it is located on a hill. 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.”

Today we will learn that we are called to **penetrate the world with Jesus’ love.*

Have kids blow out their candles.

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

Video: *The Visual Bible:Matthew.* Show Matthew 5:13-16.

It is very important that you tell the children your expectations up front about the use of the candles when lit. If a child misbehaves, he will blow out his candle and not participate. Do not allow for any exceptions!

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and the Pizza Church”

The audience participates in this script as Mr. King uses the analogy of delivering pizza to teach Gordy how we, the church, take the “good news” to others.

Story Telling: “Rachel, Salt and Light”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy and the Pizza Church”

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 refer to Matthew 5:13-16 in their Bibles.

Jesus says that we are like what two things? (*Matthew 5:13-14. Salt and light.*)

What happens to salt when it loses its saltiness? (*Matthew 5:13. It is thrown out.*)

What do you *not* do when you light a lamp? (*Matthew 5:15. You do not put it under a basket.*)

What are we a light to? (*Matthew 5:14. The world.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How are we like salt and light to our friends? (*Salt and light penetrate. One adds flavor and preserves and the other gets rid of the darkness. ***We can penetrate the world with Jesus' love.** We add flavor to people's lives and shine with our lives to get rid of spiritual darkness.*)

How do people let their lights shine in front of others? (*By showing acts of love to others in Jesus' name. Telling others about Jesus.*)

Today's key verse from Matthew 5:16 says, "...Let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Discuss these questions while doing the following activity.

Who will you be salt and light to by sharing God's love and sharing the good news of Jesus? What specific things will you do?

Application Activity:

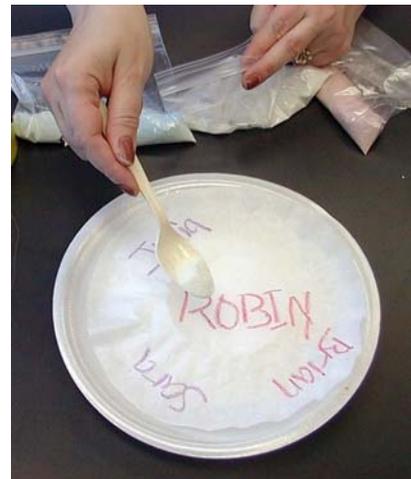
Give each child a coffee filter and have him flatten the filter and write his name in crayon in the center. Ask the children to then write names of friends, people who might be going through a difficult time or people who might not be very close to God, around the edge of the filter. Explain that this symbolizes the "circle" of people we have in our lives

Then give each child a dinner-size Styrofoam plate (to catch any excess water) and a dessert-size paper plate (to create a rounded surface). Place the smaller paper plate upside down inside the larger plate. Invert the coffee filter and cover the small paper plate with it.

God wants you to penetrate the world and give his love to others. When you do this, you are like salt. You are adding flavor to people's lives. Remember how Jesus said that you are salt of the earth.

I have some special granules (gelatin powder) that look like salt. This isn't really salt, but it will remind us that we are to be the salt of the world. After you have finished writing your names with crayon and placed your coffee filter "circle" over the small paper plate, you can spoon some of the "salt" sprinkles over your name.

As you do that, tell one way that you can show Jesus' love to one of the other people named on your circle. You might even tell us a little about those people. If you tell us a little how you can help be salt to another person, you can even take some sprinkles from another bag.



After the children have applied their sprinkles, they are ready to spritz the art project with water from the spray bottle. Apply enough water so the sprinkles change colors and soak to the fringes, *penetrating* the names. Don't overspray!

In the Bible, water is often a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Let's lightly spray our circles. Think of how the Holy Spirit can work through you to reach others.

When you see how these sprinkles change colors and penetrate to the edge of your circle, does it remind you of how God will use you to penetrate another's world? What do these colors remind you of when you think about the message that you will tell others?

Accept any answer, but let the children discuss. Some discussion starters for the colors are:

- Red: The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin.**
- Blue: The color of faith and hope. (If someone is "true blue" they are faithful.)**
- Green: The color of everlasting life.**

Remember: **We are called to penetrate the world with Jesus' love.*

After the art projects are finished, set them aside to dry. The following week, they can be displayed on a poster board or kept in your tub as prayer reminders.

Closing Prayer:

Ask the children to pray specifically for people that God is calling them to penetrate their world with Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to give them the opportunity and courage this week to follow through.

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Large Group Presentation

Video

Show the video *The Visual Bible:Matthew*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show Matthew 5:13-16. After viewing the clip, continue with the puppet presentation.

“Gordy and the Pizza Church” Puppet Presentation

Gordy: Aww...It can't be over already! I want to watch more of the video.

Mr. King: That's all for the Bible reading today. But did you hear Jesus the prophet?

Gordy: You mean Jesus was a prophet?

Mr. King: Sure. He spoke words of truth that challenge us to do something very important.

Gordy: What's that?

Mr. King: Jesus wants us to be like salt and light. He wants us to penetrate the world.

Gordy: Penetrate? I know what that means.

Mr. King: What does “penetrate” mean, Gordy?

Gordy: Penetrate is when you trade pens with someone!

Mr. King: Gordy, you're being silly. “Penetrate” means that you “go into something.” Salt goes into food and preserves it and gives it flavor. Light goes into darkness and let's people see. And we are supposed to penetrate the world.

(Gordy is thinking.)

Mr. King: Do you understand, Gordy?

Gordy: Yeah, except for one thing. *What* are you *talking* about?

Mr. King: We, believers in Christ, are the church and the church is supposed to penetrate the world and give people the good news of Jesus.

Gordy: Let me see if I've got it. The church—that's us—is supposed to penetrate the world.

Mr. King: Let me give you an example. Use your imagination. Pretend that the church is like a pizza restaurant. If a pizza restaurant serves pizza to its customers, what do we, the church, serve to the people?

Gordy: Gummy worms!?

Mr. King: Gordy!

Gordy: Gummy worm pizza?

Mr. King: Gordy!

Gordy: Okay, Mr. King. What does the church serve to its people?

Mr. King: The church serves spiritual food.

Gordy: What's spiritual food?

Mr. King: It's food for your soul. We are hungry in our hearts to know God and his love for us. The good news of Jesus is spiritual food that satisfies. When we trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we will be friends with him forever.

Gordy: So instead of pizza, we serve spiritual food. But how do people get it? Do they just come in and order it?

Mr. King: Most think so, but that's not all there is. Let me show you by having some volunteers come up. Do you want to volunteer, Gordy?

Gordy: No, someone needs to stay back and be cool.

Mr. King: Okay. (Selects five volunteers.) Here are my five volunteers. (Speaking to the volunteers.) Let's just say that you are in the pizza restaurant and here is your giant dessert pizza—a pizza cookie. Enjoy! (Mr. King hands them a pizza box with a giant pizza cookie inside.)

Gordy: Hey, no fair. I want some!

Mr. King: But you're not up here in the church...er, I mean...the pizza restaurant.

Gordy: But I didn't know that I'd get a pizza cookie if I'd be there. No fair. I want a cookie. I want a cookie. Hey kids, c'mon. Join me. *(Chanting.)* We wanna cookie. We wanna cookie. We wanna cookie.

Mr. King: Okay. Everyone quiet down. I get the message. How about this? I have a pizza box with cookies that need to go out to you. In fact, I have one box for every group. But how shall I get it to you?

Gordy: I know. How about we phone for pizza delivery?!

Mr. King: Great idea, Gordy! So, let me find some delivery people to take the product out to the customers who are away from the pizza restaurant. Who shall I send? Well, how about these five customers? They would make great delivery people. Here each of you take some pizza boxes and deliver one pizza box to every shepherd.

Gordy: Mr. King, do you realize that the customers of your pizza store are the ones who are now delivering pizza to people? What kind of pizza restaurant works that way?

Mr. King: The church does! The church is just like this type of pizza restaurant. The church is made of people who come to a place and enjoy the spiritual food.

Gordy: Like the people here eating cookie pizzas?

Mr. King: Yes. Then they become the delivery people to bring spiritual food to others in the world.

Gordy: You mean people like us screaming for pizza cookies?

Mr. King: Exactly. People who are spiritually hungry. The church penetrates the world and brings spiritual food.

Gordy: And that's what we're supposed to do?

(If time allows, Mr. King continues with the script and reads the story, "Rachel, Salt and Light." If you do not have time, go directly to Gordy's closing prayer in the puppet presentation conclusion.)

Mr. King: It sure is, Gordy. Here let me tell a story of how that happens. Why don't you take this cookie, sit back, and relax while I tell the story. Kids, wait for your cookies until you get back to your small group.

“Rachel, Salt and Light”

Mr. King: Do you know what a privilege it is for God to call you one of his representatives? Think of what a difference you can make when you penetrate your world with his love. To penetrate also means to make a way. You can make a way for others to know Jesus, as you are salt and light to the world. Consider the story of a girl named Rachel and the difference she made at her school.

Rachel went to a public school that had much spiritual darkness. Many students there used drugs, and some were members of gangs. Making a stand for God was not a very popular thing to do.

Rachel had a special relationship with God. Every day she spent time praying and reading the Bible. She was willing to be used by God for whatever he wanted.

Her faith was soon tested. When she was just thirteen, Rachel was diagnosed with leukemia, cancer of the blood. She was told that she might not have long to live.

What would you do if you knew you might die in just a few months or years? Would you stay in your room and be sad? Would you try to visit as many amusement parks as you could? Would you stop going to school?

This is what Rachel did. She wanted to make her life count. She knew God could choose to heal her. If he didn't, she wanted to bring as many people with her into a friendship with Jesus as she could. Rachel wanted every day to count for Jesus.

Rachel asked her parents to pray for her every day that God would give her a chance to share the love of Jesus with a school mate.

When Rachel was at school it seemed as though everyone was watching her. The word had spread that she had cancer and that she did not have long to live. The kids could not understand that even though she was dying, she was so concerned about others. Rachel shared the love of Christ with everyone. She really was making a difference.

Rachel was penetrating her world with the love of Jesus. She was salt and light in her school.

On her sixteenth birthday, Rachel was weak. She knew the end would be soon. She was ready to go home and be with the Lord. Still

she just wanted to see all her high school friends in heaven with her some day.

Rachel wrote a letter to her school, but she did not have a chance to read it to them. A few weeks later she died and went to heaven with Jesus.

When it was time for Rachel's funeral, hundreds of students requested permission to go. Several school buses carried them from the campus to the funeral. At Rachel's graveside, her letter was read.

"Dear Classmates,

I told my parents that I was willing to die and to go home into eternity if I could bring all of you with me. My Savior made a way for you to go to the other side..."

After the letter was finished, an invitation was given for those who wanted to begin a friendship with Jesus Christ and some day be with him and Rachel in heaven. Almost every student surged forward to receive this promise.

Jesus is the king and has given each of us a royal call to share his love with others every day of our lives. I am sure Rachel is glad that Jesus chose to use her sickness so she could be salt and light to her school and her friends.

Jesus is giving you the same opportunity in whatever place he sends you. He said it himself, "You are the salt of the world. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine for Jesus."

Based on the story "Rachel" by Sheri Rose Shepherd. Taken from LIFE IS NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL by Sheri Rose Shepherd (Multnomah Publishers, Inc., 2000)

“Gordy and the Pizza Church”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Wow, Mr. King! That was a great story.

Mr. King: It sure is. It can be our story too. We can penetrate our world by sharing Jesus' love. Gordy, would you close us in prayer?

Gordy: Sure! Dear God, thank you that you want us to go into the world and give others good spiritual food like Jesus' love. Jesus' love is even better than cookie pizza. Show each one of us how we can do that and help us to do it. In Jesus' name. Amen.