

Glow In The Dark

Week 2

**BIG IDEA**

Jesus is the light in the darkness.

**BIBLE**

The Last Supper: Mark 14:12–26; John 3:16–21

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome, everyone! It's great to see you all here shining God's light! As we continue the story of Jesus this Easter season, let's keep our focus on the light. Light is easier to spot the darker it is, and today's story is about some serious darkness.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Hide And Glow Seek

- INSTRUCTIONS:** About an hour or less before kids arrive, crack and hide glow sticks of different colors around the room. Get creative with your placement. Then when it's time to play, split kids into several teams and designate a different color for each team. Give kids one minute to see how many glow sticks of their team's color they can find, while the lights are on. After a minute, turn the lights off so the glow sticks are easier to spot. For smaller groups, do this activity without teams and have kids locate any color glow stick.
- Even though the glow sticks were glowing the whole time, we were able to see it better when the room was darker. Today we'll talk about how there can be different forms of darkness in this world, but there is a light that is brighter than all of that!

QUESTION | "What is darkness?"

- INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids share about all the different kinds of physical darkness they've experienced. You might want to leave the lights on in case this subject matter is frightening to some kids.
- Can you think of a time you were somewhere that was so dark that it was hard for you to see?** (Possible answers could include movie theaters, my room in the middle of the night, or during a power outage.)
- What makes darkness scary?**
- A lot of people are uncomfortable in the dark. Every little sound and shadow on the wall makes us think that something frightening might be lurking . . . because we can't see all too well.
- Sometimes darkness is necessary, like when it helps us sleep, but the darkness we are going to talk about today is not that kind. It's the kind that happens when God's light is nowhere to be found. Let's find out more from our Bible story!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Mark 14:12–26 (The Last Supper)

- INSTRUCTIONS:** Stand under a single spotlight (or have it pointed at you) as you read from the passage and tell the Bible story. Consider serving kids with a small beverage (in a neon cup) and a snack. Turn down the lights before you begin teaching.
- Now it's time to turn the spotlight on the Bible story. Each time I say, "Scripture Spotlight!" raise your drink cup then take a sip. **Are you ready?** Let's glow!
- Scripture Spotlight: Mark 14:12–16.**
  - Let's set the scene! Jesus, the son of God, and his disciples were in Jerusalem for the Passover, and it was time to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which lasted a week. These events were meant to remind the Jewish people of how God protected their ancestors when they were in Egypt. God watched over them during the ten terrible plagues and eventually led them out of Egypt through Moses.
  - But this meal is extra special for a different reason. Jesus knew that he would die very soon. But that's not all.
- Scripture Spotlight: Mark 14:18–21.**
  - So imagine you are one of Jesus' friends who are sitting at the table when he drops this news. All thirteen of you have spent so much time together in the last three years. Now one of you was going to turn your back on Jesus and get him killed? They were so shocked that each person wondered, "Is it me?"
  - And sadly, for one of them, the answer was yes. That person had darkness in their heart and hadn't allowed the light of Jesus in all the way.
- Scripture Spotlight: Mark 14:22–26.**
  - Jesus doesn't spend any more time trying to expose who was going to betray him. It's as though Jesus was merely stating a fact . . . this is going to happen. He showed the disciples that even spending all that time with him didn't guarantee that they would always do the right thing. So he gives them a way to remember him when he's no longer with them.
- We know now that when Jesus talked about his body and blood, he meant that we should remember that he died for the sins of the world. Right then and there, though, I'm sure his friends were so confused. Jesus had just said that one of them would turn Jesus in, but now they were singing a song together?
- What Jesus did then is what he continues to do for us today . . . he chose to focus on the light, even in the midst of very real darkness. Instead of mourning over the great sadness and pain that lay ahead, he reminded his disciples of why he came. Even on this very dark day, he shined God's light.

BIG IDEA | Jesus is the light in the darkness.

OBJECT LESSON | Catching Light

- INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) (start at 6:37) as a simple object lesson that shows how light flows — it even bends and goes through water. Then have kids try "catching the light" using a similar setup to this video. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- No matter how dark it seems, the light of Jesus shines. Nothing stops the light.
- Can you stop the light?** Nope, you can't stop the light.
- How does this remind you of the light of Jesus?**
- Let's all try to catch the light in our hands to remember to hold onto Jesus. **Jesus is the light in the darkness.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage aloud. Prepare a flashlight that you will point in the direction of another leader in the room. (Avoid the eyes!)*
- Here's the thing with light. We need it to help us find our way when it's dark. But sometimes, it can feel too bright. *(Point the flashlight toward a leader and instinctively they should recoil or shield their eyes.)*
- Jesus was — and is — such a bright light. The brightest. And like Jesus said in this passage, light exposes wrongdoings, so some people avoid the light. Or they try so hard to come close to the light but find it easier to stay in darkness.
- We've all been there. **For example, can you think of a time you tried to be kind toward someone but in an instant, you immediately said something you regretted later?** I know I have! *(Share an example and encourage willing kids to share also.)*
- But God loves us so much that Jesus didn't come to punish all of us but to save us and bring us into the light. We can see this in how Jesus didn't single out the disciple who would betray him. We can see this in how he comforted people and how he helped people know God. Jesus continued to shine God's light in all kinds of darkness and invited everyone to draw near to him.
- **Jesus is the light in the darkness.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of Press Play.*

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As kids reflect, you might want to switch off the lights or have them cover their eyes with their hands.*
- **What does light feel like? What is good about light?**
- Not only is light bright, it's also warm. When we have light, we feel seen and comforted. Jesus is this kind of light to everyone.
- Even though Jesus was following God's plans, there's no denying that Jesus was in a tough situation. One of his closest friends had betrayed him. Jesus probably felt hurt by his friend and sad that their relationship had changed. But Jesus brought light to a dark situation by openly talking about what was going on with his friends. By doing so, he gave everyone a chance to see things clearly.
- **What are some things that you need help seeing clearly?**
- Jesus lights up the darkness and can even give us a way to see things more clearly when we have questions.
- Remember, even when it seems dark, Jesus is always with you. There is always some light if you let it in. **Jesus is the light in the darkness.**

- **"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?"**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare glow cups with one or two words written on each cup. For younger kids, you can number the cups so it's easier for them to put them in order. Use a timer and challenge kids to line up the cups in the correct order as fast as they can.*

- Thank you, God, for sending Jesus. Thank you for his light shining in our lives and reminding each of us that your light is always with us. Even when things seem dark, your light shines bright! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
  - **What were Jesus and his disciples doing in today's Bible story?** *They were sharing a meal for Passover, the Festival of Unleavened Bread.*
  - **What did Jesus say that was surprising to his disciples?** *Jesus said that one of the disciples at that table would betray him.*
  - **What did the bread and the cup mean?** *They stood for Jesus' body and blood. It was meant as a way for them to remember Jesus after he died.*
  - **Read John 3:16–17. How did God light up the darkness by sending Jesus?** *Instead of allowing the world to stay in darkness, God sent Jesus to save the world.*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
  - **When things start to feel dark — when you feel frightened or lost — what do you normally do?**
  - **What does it mean for Jesus to be your light in any kind of darkness?**
  - **Who else in your life needs to know about the light of Jesus?**