

WEEK 1

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can shine God's light.

BIBLE

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts: John 2:13–22; Matthew 5:14–16

Whether it's a rocket car powered by soda and mints or a tornado in a water bottle, there's so much in our world that can fill us with awe. The world of STEM is full of things that look like little miracles, but they're nothing compared to the miracles God can perform. In this four-week series, kids will take a look at some of the miracles that Jesus performed during his ministry. Through stories showing the power of Jesus, they'll no doubt go, Wow! Jesus **has the power to heal, to calm our fears, to provide, and to save.**

How many of you like glow-in-the-dark stuff? Me too! I love looking at how all those bright, neon colors shine through in the darkness. As we celebrate Easter together through the story of Jesus this month, we're going to be learning about how God's love lights up the darkness and how we can glow with God's love, too!

POLL | Light Facts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a large "T" and "F" on opposite sides of the room. After reading each statement, have kids go stand by the "F" if they think it's false and by the "T" if they think it's true.
- **True or False: People need light to see.** True! We need even the smallest amount of light to see because we can't see in complete darkness.
- **True or False: Light is a beam of energy that travels in a straight line.** False! Light travels in a wave.
- **True or False: Plants turn light energy from the sun into food.** True! Sun is food for plants.
- **True or False: It takes 45 seconds for light from the sun to reach Earth.** False! It actually takes about 8 minutes and 20 seconds!
- **True or False: There are real living things that glow in the dark.** True! Organisms like jellyfish, fireflies, and even some kinds of bugs have this thing called bioluminescence that allows them to glow.
- **True or False: Humans can naturally glow in the dark.** Ah, trick question! It's mostly true, though. The human body does actually glow and emits low levels of light throughout the day, although we can't really see it. There's a different kind of light we can shine altogether . . . Jesus' light!!

BIBLE STORY | Watch the Bible Story from the online lesson from **John 2:13-22.**

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **What did Jesus find in the temple courts?** People were selling cattle, sheep, and doves and exchanging money.
 - **What did Jesus do about it?** He made a whip out of cords and drove the people and animals away. He overturned the tables.
 - **Why did these things upset Jesus?** They were turning God's house into a market, and they were focused on the wrong things.
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **What is one way you've seen someone shine God's light?**
 - **What is one way you can shine God's light this week?**

BIG IDEA | **We can shine God's light.**

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 5:14–16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Matthew 5:14-16.*
- God has given each one of us a light inside. It helps us stay close to God no matter where we are. We are asked to shine that light and not hide it.
- Following Jesus makes it possible for us to be a reflection of God's love. That's how **we can shine God's light**.

PRAYER

- God, thank you for shining your light in our world. Help us to shine your light by reflecting your love and kindness wherever we go. Make us bold so that we may shine that light bright and not hide it. Amen.

ACTIVITY OPTION #1 | RESPONSE | Embrace The Light

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find some glow sticks, write the Big Idea on a piece of clear tape or label with a permanent marker. On another piece, write the name of someone you can shine God's light on by serving them this week. Wrap both labels around each of the two glow bracelets and wear them to remind you to shine God's light.*
- God's light does more than shine on the things in the darkness. It's also powerful. It has the power to save, the power to give us knowledge, and the power to help. So when we say, "**We can shine God's light**," it means God gives us the power to be a helper and show others what love looks like.
- **Who are some people you can shine God's light and love on this week? How will you shine?**

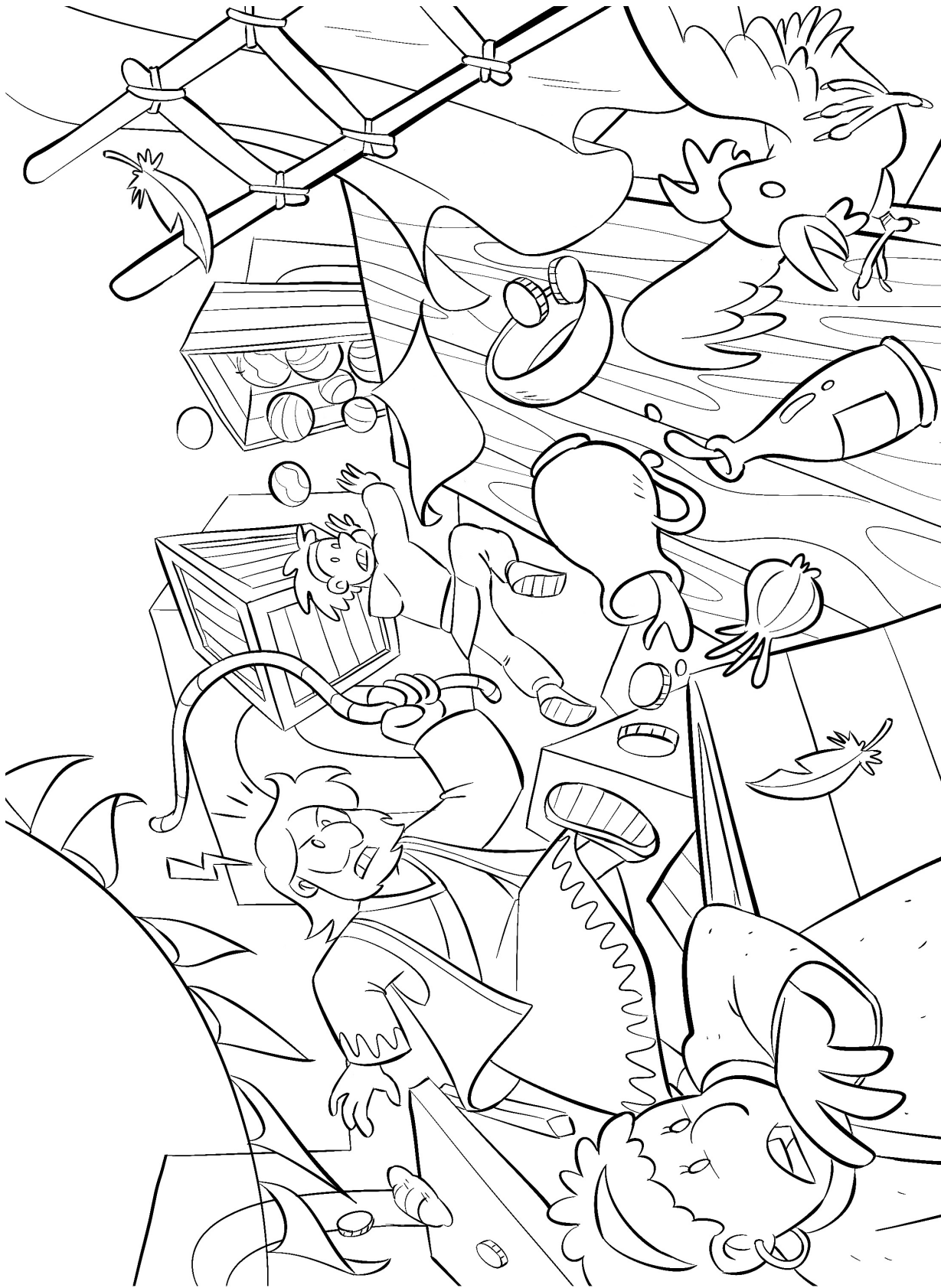
ACTIVITY #2 | Bible Story or Memory Verse Printable

Print either or both the Bible Story and Memory Verse Printable. This will help remind you of the Big Idea for today and also our monthly memory verse.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 27:1a (NIV)

- **"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?"**

INSTRUCTIONS: Watch the video from the online lesson page and practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL).



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"THE LORD
IS MY LIGHT
AND MY
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WHOM SHALL
I FEAR?"

PSALM 27:14 (NIV)