

WEEK 3

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can choose Jesus.

BIBLE

Jesus Before Pilate: Mark 15:1–15;
Jeremiah 31:31–34

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.**

Welcome to another week where we can see how to *glow in the dark* like Jesus! So far we've talked about shining God's light and how Jesus *is* that light in the darkness. Today we're talking about how light and darkness are choices we often have to make. Let's see what we can do to make sure we choose what's best!

POLL | Glowing Choices

- We make choices every single day! What we're going to wear, what we're going to eat for breakfast, or what to do after school. No matter how old you are, you will always be making decisions. For example . . .
 - Candy or chocolate?
 - Pizza or hamburger?
 - Baseball or basketball?
 - Carrots or broccoli?
 - Yellow or green?
 - Math or science?
 - Yoda or Darth Vader?
 - Art or music?
 - Books or movies?
- It's easy to make choices if you have strong opinions to stand by. I bet if you're not a big carrot person, there's not much anyone can say to convince you to choose carrots.
- It's okay to change your mind about the things you like and don't like, but there might come a time when you're faced with much tougher choices than these. How will we know what to choose? Let's see what our Bible story has to say about that.

BIBLE STORY | Watch the Bible Story from the online lesson from **Mark 15:1-15.**

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Who did the religious leaders hand Jesus over to so that he could be put on trial?** *Pilate*
 - **What choice did Pilate give to the crowd?** *The choice was to have Jesus or Barabbas released.*

- **Why do you think they made that choice?** Possible answers: They went along with what everyone else was saying, they were confused, they didn't really know Jesus, or they were disappointed Jesus was not the king they thought he was.
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **Have you ever made a choice that you knew wasn't Jesus' way? What happened?**
 - **How can we help each other to choose Jesus?**

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SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 31:31–34

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** **Jeremiah 31:31-34 aloud.**
- **Have you ever made a pinky promise with someone?** It's when two friends lock pinkies and make a promise together — like "I promise to play that game with you today" or "I promise to pray for you tonight." God makes promises with humans, too, called covenants.
- Way, way long ago, God made a covenant promise to the people of Israel. God's side of the promise was always kept, but the Israelites had trouble keeping their end. They kept forgetting about God and turning to everything else, but God never forgot them and wanted to renew the covenant with the people. God says they will always be God's people, and God will always forgive them.
- This promise is for us, too. God forgives us each time we mess up and turn away from God. When we choose Jesus, we choose the road that leads to God . . . the God who, like Jeremiah says, forgives and will remember our sins no more.
- **We can choose Jesus.**

PRAYER

- God, we know that sometimes it can be hard to choose Jesus. Instead of listening to what the crowds of life are saying, help us to follow you and choose you first. Thank you for choosing to show your love and forgiveness to us every day. Amen.

ACTIVITY OPTION #1 | **ACTIVITY** | **Choosing the Light**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** At home find a piece of transparency film or a clear, plastic lid, cardboard tube, a marker, a rubber band, and plastic wrap. The film or lid need to be slightly larger than the opening of the cardboard tube. Write "Jesus" on the paper and attach it to the end of a cardboard tube using plastic wrap and a rubber band. Shine a flashlight or phone light through the tube and project the word onto a flat surface. You can also decorate the cardboard tube with stickers and markers.
- We might not always notice it, but there are a lot of times when we have to make a choice between what pleases God and what doesn't. Whenever that happens, we can shine Jesus bright and remember that in any situation, **we can choose Jesus!**

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)

