JUNKYARD GAMES
LESSON THREE: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

MAIN POINT: Jesus, the Light of the World, drives away the darkness of sin.

BIBLE VERSE: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

BIBLE STORY: Light and Darkness, John 8:12-30; Light of the World, Matthew 5:14-16

EACH LESSON CONTAINS:

DISCOVERING: FINDING OUT ABOUT THE NAME
-Guess the Junk
-Alex and the Junkyard Gang
-Uncovering the Name
-Discovering the Verse

CONSTRUCTING: PUTTING TOGETHER WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE NAME
-Bible Story
-Crazy Game Time
-Imagine the Game Challenge

TESTING: APPLYING THE NAME
-Game Invention Lab
-Craft
-Game
-Bible Memory
-Express Yourself
-Snack
-Trading Cards
-Family Time

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE TEACHING:
Throughout Scripture we see light as a symbol of God. Whether through the pillar of fire that guided the Israelites by night or in 1 John 1 where God is said to be light. Jesus proclaims in John 8 that He is the light of the world. It is through Him that the darkness of sin is cast away.

Kids will learn that not only does He drive the darkness away, but as we walk in His light we will reflect that light to others.
DISCOVERING
GUESS THE JUNK

Supplies: Old metal bucket

Option: Any old container will work. Change the clues to match.

Preparation: Hide the bucket in the junkyard or place in a box.

Welcome to the Junkyard.

I am going to give you three clues about what our junk find of the day is. Let’s see if you can guess what it is. (Either show the box or indicate that the junk item is somewhere among the other junk items.)

Clue #1: It is made of metal.
Clue #2: It is used to carry things.
Clue #3: Jack and Jill might have carried this to fetch the water.

Answer: Bucket

ALEX AND THE JUNKYARD GANG

Supplies: old metal bucket

Alex has the bucket upside down on his head. He is talking about how dark it is, how he cannot see and how scary it feels. The Junkyard Gang enters and circles around him looking at him. They shrug their shoulders and then stand looking puzzled.

Junkyard Gang kid: Mr. Alex. Um. We would like to know what you are doing.

Alex takes the bucket off his head.

Alex: Junkyard Gang! You are just in time to hear about my amazing discoveries while wearing this bucket. First off, it is dark inside this bucket. Very, very dark. I couldn’t see much of anything when this bucket was on my head. It was like the lights went out or something. But then when I pulled the bucket off, everything was light again.
(Looks a bit sheepish.) Of course, that is not what a bucket is for. It’s for things like...you know...carrying water or stuff you just picked from the garden. That kind of thing. Very useful. (Puts the bucket down.) Well feel free to look around. I’m just going to try to find my clipboard and get back to work. (He starts looking around.)

(The Junkyard Gang look at each other and grin. One of the members places the bucket on Alex’s head.)

Alex: Hey, who turned the lights out? Wait I’m outside. No one can turn the lights out. What is going on? (One of the members takes the bucket off Alex.) Oh very funny. Very funny. (Sarcastic.) Let’s see what you think of the trick. Alex places the bucket on the member’s head)

Junkyard Gang kid: Mr. Alex, you were right. It is dark in there. When that bucket went on my head it was like the lights went out. That is kind of creepy.

The Junkyard Gang puts the bucket back on the ground and leaves.

UNCOVERING THE NAME

Supplies: sign “Light of the World”, candle in a candleholder

Each week our name of Jesus is going to have a symbol to help us remember the meaning of the name. We will look at a picture that has part of the symbol up close. More of the symbol will be shown a little at a time. See if you can guess what the symbol is.

(This can be done by having the kids yell out answers, dividing into two teams with a captain or choosing two kids to play in front of everyone.)

The symbol is a burning candle. Our name today is “Light of the World.” What do you think the symbol has to do with the name? (Give the kids an opportunity to guess.)

What happens if you light a candle in a dark place? You will be able to see. The light drives away the darkness.

Jesus, as the Light of the World, drives away darkness. However, this darkness is not a physical one, but a spiritual one. He drives away the darkness of sin.

Display: Place the symbol in the display. Make sure to print out the name “Light of the World.”
DISCOVERING THE VERSE

Read John 8:12 together:

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

Let’s say the verse again with some motions to help us remember it.

I am (Point to the sky.)
The Light (Hold up finger like a candle.)
Of the world. (Use hands to shape a globe.)
Whoever (Sweep arm from one side to the other.)
Follows me (Put hand out palm side up. Walk fingers across the palm.)
Will not walk in darkness (Shake head and close eyes.)
But will have the light (Hold up finger again.)
Of life. (Put hands to side in the shape of a L. Move up the sides of body to indicate life.)

CONSTRUCTING

BIBLE STORY

Light and Darkness, John 8:12-30; Light of the World, Matthew 5:14-16

Supplies: plastic cup

Preparation: Place the plastic cup on a small table.

I need two volunteers to play Name that Light. (Choose two kids and have them stand on either side of the table.)
I will give you three clues one at a time with a pause after each clue. If you think you know the light source I am describing, grab the cup. The one holding the cup gets to answer. If you are wrong, the other person will get all the remaining clues and will be given an opportunity to guess.

**Light: Sun**
Clue #1: It provides warmth along with light.
Clue #2: It is in the sky.
Clue #3: You should never look directly at it.

**Light: Firefly**
Clue #1: You can only see these at night or dusk.
Clue #2: It gives off a very little light.
Clue #3: The light comes from a bug.

**Light: Candle**
Clue #1: This light flickers.
Clue #2: You use a match or lighter to light this.
Clue #3: This is made of wax.

**Light: Light bulb**
Clue #1: This can be found inside or outside.
Clue #2: This is manmade.
Clue #3: You must screw this into a socket for it to work.

**Light: Flashlight**
Clue #1: Many people will keep this handy in their homes or cars.
Clue #2: It has an on and off switch.
Clue #3: You hold this in your hand.

**Light: Campfire**
Clue #1: This gives out light and warmth.
Clue #2: You must be careful with this or it could be dangerous.
Clue #3: You use this when camping.

There are many different kinds of lights in the world. We named six of them but there are so many more. Jesus said that He is the Light of the World. When He said that, what do you think people thought of? Did they think of flashlights or light bulbs? No, they were not invented yet. Do you think they thought of fireflies or a campfire?
People may have thought of candles or oil lamps. In John 8, Jesus is talking to the Pharisees during a special time. It was called the Feast of Booths. During this time at the temple, a lamp-lighting ceremony would take place every evening. Large lamps were set up in the temple and the light from these lamps was said to fill every courtyard in the city. There was dancing and singing all evening in the light of these lamps. People celebrated how God had saved them. God had led his people out of Egypt where they were in slavery. He appeared to them as a pillar of fire by night, giving light for them to see the way they should go.

It was during this feast, when the people were celebrating the light that God was for them, that Jesus proclaimed that He is the Light of the World.

However, Jesus is not a light to help us see physically. He is a light that sets us free from the bondage of sin. He shines in the darkness of sin. He saves the world not from their physical enemy but from sin.

Not only does He drive the darkness of sin away from our lives, but we reflect the light that He brings to us.

Let’s read Matthew 5:14-16:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

When we reflect the light of Jesus, they see the work of Jesus in us and glorify God. However, when we do not reflect that light but rather hide it under a basket (or a bucket) then people will not see God working us.

We make a choice every day whether we are going to follow the Light of the World and whether we will reflect the Light we are following.
PRAYER

Ask Jesus to help the kids follow the Light of the World. Thank Him for driving out the darkness of sin and lighting the way we should go. Ask Him to help the kids reflect His light to the world.

CRAZY GAME TIME

Supplies: timer, 3 buckets, flashlight

Divide the kids into two teams. Choose a team captain for each team.

I am going to show you some pictures of different kinds of buckets. We will take turns between the teams guessing what kind of bucket. You will have 10 seconds to guess. If you do not guess correctly in 10 seconds, the other team will get one chance to guess. You may guess as many guesses as possible during the 10 seconds, however, the team captain must make the guesses.

Bucket #1: Beach or sand bucket
Bucket #2: Ice bucket
Bucket #3: Paint bucket
Bucket #4: Leather Fire bucket (German)
Bucket #5: Helicopter bucket
Bucket #6: Excavator bucket
Bucket #7: Wooden bucket

What is true about all of these buckets? (Give kids an opportunity to guess.) They all carry something. They carry a load.

The loads they carry remind us of the load that people carry with sin. It feels heavy. However, when we ask Jesus to forgive us, He empties our bucket. We no longer carry around a heavy load.

Sometimes people do not understand their need for Jesus and for Him to forgive them of their sins. They are like someone walking around with a bucket on their head. It dark inside the bucket. They cannot see the light. When Jesus comes into our lives, he lifts the bucket and we can see the truth and the light.

Let’s say our Bible verse to remind us of what Jesus does:
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12
I need two volunteers to play a game. In this game, you will need to decide where the light is. (Show the flashlight.) I will put the flashlight somewhere in this room and you will have to find it. So while I hide it I need you to go out of the room (behind stage, close eyes, etc.)

Line the buckets up upside down on a table. Turn the flashlight on and place it under a bucket. Call the volunteer in. Make sure the other kids know not to give hints.

Where do you think the flashlight is? You two may work together to figure it out. (When they guess under a bucket, lift it to show it. Continue until they find the flashlight.)

Were you able to see the light? It was hidden by the bucket. In our Bible story today we read from Matthew telling us not to hide our light under a basket.

We should reflect Jesus' love to others. His light should be evident to others through our actions, our words and our attitudes.

Can you think of a “bucket” that we hide our light under? For instance, if we are easily angered and lash out at people, this hides the light. Can you think of some others?

We have a choice. When we realize that an attitude or an action is hiding Jesus’ light, we can ask Him to forgive us and to help us to be more like Him reflecting His light. Let’s make that choice every day.

**IMAGINE THE GAME CHALLENGE**

**Supplies:** bucket, laundry baskets, duct tape, paper, markers, string

Note: Any containers can be used for this activity- boxes, plastic storage, shoe boxes. Also, throw in any supplies that might be fun for the kids to be creative with: pipe cleaners, odd toys, balls, bean bags.

Divide the kids into groups of 5-6. Divide the supplies between the groups. Give each group time to imagine a game that illustrates the main point of the lesson: Jesus, the Light of the World, drives away the darkness of sin.

The game must be able to be played in their small group and everyone must be able to play it.

When they finish planning the game, have them play it. Then, have them verbalize how the game illustrates the point. If time permits, show the games to the other groups.
TESTING
THE GAME INVENTION LAB

Supplies: same supplies from Imagine the Game Challenge

Note: You could use smaller containers for individual games such as plastic cups or bowls.

Have the kids work individually to create a game that can be played by themselves. Encourage them to think of a game that would help them to explain to someone that Jesus is The Light of the World. The game could help explain the Bible story, the meaning of the name, or the idea that those who follow Christ should reflect His light to the world.

After creating the game, have them play each other’s games and have them explain their meaning to one another.

CRAFT: CANDLEHOLDERS

Supplies: votive candles, small jars or glass holders, different colors of yarn, glue

Wrap the yarn around the jar with no space between the wrapped yarn. Glue or tie the end. Make different stripes or designs with the yarn. Place the candle inside the jar.

Review what the name Light of the World means.

GAME: BLING GUESS

Supplies: blindfold

One person is blindfolded and sits in the middle of a circle. When the teacher points to a person in the circle, the person may either call out the blindfolded person’s name or quietly come up to him/her and gently poke or pat the arm. The blindfolded person tries to guess who the person was. If correct, they trade places. Play continues with the blindfolded person trading off after three people if the guesses have been incorrect.

Was it hard to guess without being able to see? When we walk in the dark, do you think it is hard to see if we are going down the wrong path? It is important to follow the Light of the World as He will guide us.
BIBLE MEMORY

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

Supplies: 22 pieces each of two different colored paper, flashlights

Preparation: Write the words of the verse on one color paper, one word per page. Do the same with the other color paper. Tape the verses around the room.

Have the kids go out of the room while the words are taped on the wall (or use a different room prepped beforehand.) Divide the kids into two teams. Give a flashlight to each team (or every couple kids). Assign the teams a color. Darken the room. The teams must use the flashlights to find their team’s words. Once all the words have been found, the team works together to put them in order.

For larger groups, use more than two colors.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Supplies: Copy of questions for each small group

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Light of the World?
2. How has Jesus been a light to you?
3. How do we reflect the light to the world? Name some specific ways.
4. When is it difficult to reflect that light?
5. Can you think of a time when you did not want to reflect Jesus’ light to the world but did it anyway? What was the outcome? Were you glad that you did?
6. Think of some ways that you can reflect His light this week. Pick one way and share it with the group. Make a plan for making sure you do this.
SNACK: BURNING CANDLE

**Supplies:** String or stick cheese, strawberry, graham crackers, plate

Place one graham cracker square on the plate for the candle holder. Put the cheese on the plate above the cracker for the candle. Cut a strawberry in half and put on top for the flame.

Review the meaning of the name, Light of the World.

TRADING CARDS

**Supplies:** printed card for each child, markers or crayons (optional)

**Name:** Light of the World  
**Symbol:** Burning candle

**Verse:** I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

Give each child the card. If using the coloring cards, use markers or crayons to decorate them. Go over the verse together and review the symbol.
SUPPLY LIST

GUESS THE JUNK: ☐ old metal bucket
ALEX AND THE JUNKYARD GANG: ☐ old metal bucket
UNCOVERING THE NAME: ☐ sign “Light of the World” ☐ candle in a candleholder
BIBLE STORY: ☐ plastic cup
CRAZY GAME TIME: ☐ timer ☐ 3 buckets ☐ flashlight
IMAGINE THE GAME CHALLENGE: ☐ bucket ☐ laundry baskets ☐ duct tape ☐ paper ☐ markers
☐ string
THE GAME INVENTION LAB: ☐ same supplies from Imagine the Game Challenge
CRAFT: ☐ votive candles ☐ small jars or glass holders ☐ different colors of yarn ☐ glue
GAME: ☐ blindfold
BIBLE MEMORY: ☐ 22 pieces each of two different colored paper ☐ flashlights
EXPRESS YOURSELF: ☐ Copy of questions for each small group
SNACK: ☐ String or stick cheese ☐ strawberry ☐ graham crackers ☐ plate
TRADING CARDS: ☐ printed card for each child ☐ markers or crayons (optional)
MAIN POINT: Jesus, the Light of the World, drives away the darkness of sin.

BIBLE VERSE: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

BIBLE STORY: Light and Darkness, John 8:12-30; Light of the World, Matthew 5:14-16

FAMILY DISCUSSION:
1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Light of the World?
2. What does it mean to walk in darkness? What does it mean to have the light of life?
3. How can your family reflect this Light to the world?

FAMILY IMAGINATIVE THINKING:
Sit in the darkness. Light a candle. What difference does the candle make? How does Jesus as Light of the World make a difference in your life?

FAMILY GAME:
Play Flashlight tag or hide-in-seek in the dark with flashlights.
EXPRESS YOURSELF

Supplies: Copy of questions for each small group

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Light of the World?
2. How has Jesus been a light to you?
3. How do we reflect the light to the world? Name some specific ways.
4. When is it difficult to reflect that light?
5. Can you think of a time when you did not want to reflect Jesus’ light to the world but did it anyway? What was the outcome? Were you glad that you did?
6. Think of some ways that you can reflect His light this week. Pick one way and share it with the group. Make a plan for making sure you do this.
I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER Follows ME WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

JohN 8:12