



# Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to understand that their actions have consequences, but they may not have enough foresight to always anticipate those consequences. Use this lesson to teach kids that others will look to them to see what Christianity is all about. Help kids be mindful of their behavior because they never know when a nonbeliever will be looking!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>What's My Job?</b> (about 5 min.) Play a fun guessing game about occupations.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Light Bulb Lessons</b> (about 10 min.) Begin making a craft to be used later in the lesson.	pans, glue, water, yellow crepe paper, newspaper, small balloons	Cover your worktables with newspaper for easy cleanup. Prepare several pans containing a soupy mixture of glue and water.
	<b>Bearing Fruit</b> (about 10 min.) Study a fun picture to understand what Jesus said about bearing good fruit.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



## ► Bible Point

Acting like Jesus shows we're Christians.


## Key Verse

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will show kindness to others.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Actions Speak Louder</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create scenarios with different endings to show how faith affects actions.	newsprint, markers	
	<b>Shining Lights</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Learn what Jesus says in the Key Verse.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Bright Bulbs</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Finish the crafts to help them commit to shining for Jesus this week.	newsprint, tape, permanent markers, aluminum foil, duct tape, mini paper cups, scissors, balloon light bulbs made in "Light Bulb Lessons"	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth, lightbulb crafts from "Bright Bulbs"	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

# Jesus Compares Trees to Authentic Faith

## The Heart Is Known Through Actions

## The Jesus Connection

Don't forget to pray for the person! You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



### Light Bulb Lessons Supplies

.....

pans  
glue  
water  
yellow crepe paper  
newspaper  
small balloons

### Light Bulb Lessons Easy Prep

.....

Cover your worktables with newspaper for easy cleanup. Prepare several pans containing a soupy mixture of glue and water.

**BALLOON WARNING**  
To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### What's My Job?

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form groups of three. Explain that today you'll be playing a guessing game. Have the first trio come forward to be contestants. Whisper the name of the same occupation to all three contestants, and then have them face the class.

Explain that each person in the rest of the class can ask a yes-or-no question of the contestants, who will take turns answering the questions. If someone guesses the occupation, whisper a new occupation to three new contestants and play again. If everyone asks a question without guessing the occupation, reveal the answer and begin again with new contestants.

Play until all trios have been contestants.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids answer the following questions in their groups. After each question, invite trios to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Ask:

- How easy or hard was it to guess these occupations? Why?
- How can you tell what someone's job is in real life?

Say: **Sometimes it's easy to tell what a person does by the way he or she dresses. Other times we can tell by what the person talks about. Today we'll look at something a little more difficult to discover about people—what they believe. We'll learn that ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS. Let's get started!**

.....

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Light Bulb Lessons

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Before we look at today's Bible story, we're going to make light bulb crafts. Later on, you'll see what light bulbs have to do with today's lesson.**





Have kids blow up and tie off small balloons. Tell each child to blow up his or her balloon just until the shape resembles a light bulb. As kids blow up the balloons, set out the pans of glue solution.

Have kids tear 6-inch strips of yellow crepe paper and dip the crepe paper in the glue solution. Demonstrate how to cover a balloon with overlapping strips of solution-covered crepe paper until the balloon is completely covered. Caution kids not to add too many layers of crepe paper. If they do, the strips won't dry before the end of class. Then have kids set aside the balloons to dry.

Say: **A little later, we'll come back to these light bulbs. But right now, let's look at our Bible story.**

## Bearing Fruit

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today's Bible story is short and sweet. In fact, it's only two verses long. In those two verses, Jesus talks about trees and fruit.**

Distribute pens and today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Ask kids to look closely at the picture on the page. Explain that although the picture shows trees and fruit, parts of the picture aren't quite right. Ask kids to study the picture and circle the parts of the picture that don't seem right.

Give kids about a minute to circle parts of the picture. Then have kids form pairs to compare pictures with their partners.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids answer these questions with their partners, and invite pairs to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Ask:

- **What parts of the picture did you circle? Why?**
- **How could you tell, just by looking, that some parts of the picture were wrong?**
- **Have you ever seen a real apple tree produce bananas or a pine tree produce watermelons? Why not?**

Say: **We can tell what kind of tree we're looking at by the kind of fruit it produces. Apple trees produce apples; orange trees produce oranges. We can tell by its fruit what kind of tree we're looking at. Jesus says we can do the same thing with people.**

Give each child a Bible, and have kids turn to Luke 6:43-45. Lead kids in reading the verses aloud in unison. Then have kids form pairs to answer the following questions. After each question, let partners share their answers with the rest of the class.



### Bearing Fruit Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### Bearing Fruit Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1  
pages from each Bible  
Truth Sleuth student  
book.



### Actions Speak Louder Supplies

newsprint  
markers

Ask:

- Jesus talked about fruit and trees in these verses; what does that have to do with people?
- How do Christians act differently from people who aren't Christians?

Say: **The Bible says that good trees bear good fruit and that each tree is recognized by its fruit. That means that Christians can be recognized by their fruit—or by the good things they do. ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.** When we follow Jesus, we try to act the way he tells us to. Let's look at that idea a little more closely.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Actions Speak Louder

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have pairs join together to form groups of four. Have kids answer the following questions in their new groups, and invite them to share their answers with the rest of the class after each question.

Ask:

- How does Jesus want us to act?
- How are those actions different from how someone who doesn't know Jesus might act?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Ask each group to come up with a situation in which kids who are Christians might act differently from kids who don't know Jesus. Explain that kids may either draw a picture of the situation or act out the situation as a group. The only rule is that each group member must be actively involved. Make sure that kids understand they'll need to explain two possible endings to the situation—one ending showing how a Christian might act and one ending showing how someone who doesn't know Jesus might act.

Set out markers and newsprint for kids who want to draw their situations. Be available to help groups if they seem stumped or have questions. Give kids about five minutes to work. Then let each group depict its situation. After each presentation, ask other groups whether they agree or disagree with the depiction or if they have any thoughts to add.

After each group has made its presentation, lead the class in a big round of applause for the performances.

Say: **When we believe in Jesus, our lives show it. We act differently, talk differently, and think differently than if we didn't believe in Jesus. Our Key Verse today tells us why it's so important that ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.** Let's turn to that verse right now.





# Shining Lights

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids turn to Matthew 5:16 and read the verse aloud in their groups: **"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) (track 2). Lead kids in singing along.



**Hey! Hey! Yeah!**

**Hey! Hey! Yeah!**

**Let your light shine before men that**

**They may see your good deeds and**

**Praise your Father in heaven.**

**Let your light shine before men, yeah,**

**Let your light shine before men.**

*(Repeat.)*

**Let your light shine before men that**

**They may see your good deeds and**

**Praise your Father in heaven.**

**Let your light shine before men, yeah,**

**Let your light shine before men.**

**Let your light shine before men, yeah.**

**Let your light shine before men.**

**Hey! Hey! Yeah!**

**Hey! Hey! Yeah!**

"Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Right before this verse, Jesus says that Christians are the light of the world. He says that people don't hide their lights under a bowl but they put the light on a stand so everyone in the house can see. In Bible times, people lit lamps to light their houses. In modern times, this verse would be like saying that when your house is dark, you don't turn on a lamp and then hide it in a closet. You set the lamp in the middle of the room so everyone can see.**

**Then, in our Key Verse, Jesus says that our actions should be like those lamps, shining for everyone to see.**

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you think Jesus wants us to live lives that shine with faith?**



## Shining Lights Supplies

Bibles

CD player

copies of the lyrics (at  
the end of this lesson)

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let Your Light  
Shine" (Matthew 5:16)  
(track 2)



### Bright Bulbs Supplies

newsprint  
tape  
permanent markers  
aluminum foil  
duct tape  
mini paper cups  
scissors  
balloon light bulbs  
made in "Light Bulb  
Lessons"

Say: Look again at the end of Matthew 5:16. Pause. Jesus says that we should let our lives shine so that when others see our good actions, they'll praise God. That's the whole point—not to bring attention to us but to bring attention to God. Our actions can light the way to God, or they can add to the darkness and lead someone away from God.

Let's think for a moment about whether we're giving off as much light as we should be.

## Bright Bulbs

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: I want you to think about last week. Think for a minute about how you acted and what you said. Think especially about how you acted when you weren't at home or in church. Don't answer out loud, but silently answer this question to yourself:

Ask:

- Could the people around you tell by your words and actions that you believe in Jesus?

Give kids a few moments to think.

Say: I hope you were able to answer yes to that question. But we could all do a better job at letting our lights shine before others. Turn to a partner, and think of ways you can let your light shine for Jesus this coming week. Make your ideas as specific as you can, and see how many ideas you can think of in two minutes.

Call time after two minutes, and write kids' answers on a sheet of newsprint taped to a wall. Then have kids retrieve the light bulbs they made earlier. Set out mini paper cups, aluminum foil, duct tape, scissors, and permanent markers. Have kids write on their light bulbs one way they can let their lights shine and be kind to others this week. Then show kids how to cover a small cup with foil, turn the cup upside down, and use a loop of duct tape to attach the bottom of the cup to the bottom of the light bulb.

## 4

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's consider that ► **ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS** by discussing our Daily Challenge.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth







Tell kids that shining their lights for Jesus and being kind to others will be their Daily Challenge, using the idea they wrote on their light bulbs.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: ► **ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.** Let's act like Jesus by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.

## Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their kids. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their kids.

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about acting like Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Gather kids in a circle with their light bulb crafts. Explain that you'll begin the closing prayer by saying one way you'll try to let your light shine for Jesus this week. Then the child to your left will say an idea and hold his or her light bulb in the air. Continue around the circle until each child has said an idea and is holding a light bulb in the air. Then close the prayer by asking God to help each child shine for him this week.



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
lightbulb crafts from  
"Bright Bulbs"

### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....  
Tear out the letter to  
parents from each Bible  
Truth Sleuth student  
book.



**Lyrics** **Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)**

Hey! Hey! Yeah!  
Hey! Hey! Yeah!  
Let your light shine before men that  
They may see your good deeds and  
Praise your Father in heaven.  
Let your light shine before men, yeah,  
Let your light shine before men.  
(Repeat.)

Let your light shine before men that  
They may see your good deeds and  
Praise your Father in heaven.  
Let your light shine before men, yeah,  
Let your light shine before men.  
Let your light shine before men, yeah.  
Let your light shine before men.  
Hey! Hey! Yeah!  
Hey! Hey! Yeah!

"Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

