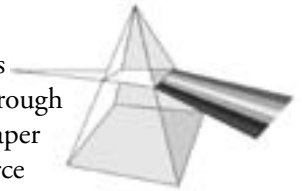


Here We Come!

As the children arrive, let them play with prisms and mirrors. Demonstrate how light coming through a prism makes a rainbow of color on a white paper or wall. A mirror can reflect light from one source



to another. Use care so light does not flash in someone's eyes. Talk about why that would not be kind or healthy. Use different shaped mirrors. Frames with geometric centers can be cut from construction paper to illustrate triangles, circles, or hexagon shapes.

Scripture Words and Worship

Print the words of the verse from Matthew on objects that give light: candles, the sun, or flashlights. The generous response scriptures from Psalms have been adapted to help children understand what is meant by the word, "generous." Each word can be printed on an object that can be used to help others. Choose from clothing, coins, food, or bandages.

Shine!

Be a light shining for Jesus.

Sense-ations

Give each child a copy of the smiling-sun in the pattern section, page 46. Color can be added with markers, crayons, or glitter. As they work, talk about ways they can help others.



Story Talking

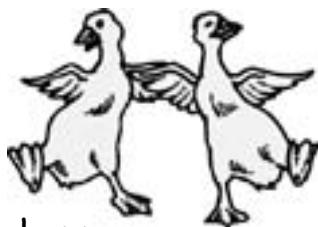
Children can learn about helping and being kind to others by observing the following animal pictures. Copy the pictures below and mount each on a separate card. Let the children tell you what they see in the picture. If the animal looks happy what might be causing it? If the animal looks angry, scared, hungry, or helpless, what could the children do to ease the situation?

Scripture Words

Let your light shine.
—Matthew 5:16 NRSV

Give generously to those in need.—Psalm 112:9 LB

Give with kindness to those in need. Help others.—Psalm 112:9 adapted



happy

helpless



angry



sad



scared



hungry

Live and Learn

Our scriptures are filled with stories about people and their connections to God. They can help us understand more about God and how much we are loved. In the Old Testament, the prophets often seemed harsh in their messages to the people. There was a lot of “don’t do this and don’t do that.” But there were also encouraging words to help people know what God wanted them to do.

The scripture from Isaiah 58 was one of the writings giving advice that came to the people after the captivity. They were sort of keeping the commandments in a half-hearted way. Isaiah gave them some specific things to do and not do. Use the elements in the story to help children identify positive things they can do for God.

- Isaiah called the people together. It was like coming to a big church service, but there were so many people they had to meet outdoors.
- “God is glad you came,” Isaiah told the people. “It is good to come together and worship God.”
- “We know,” the people said. “We set aside special days for God. Sometimes we even give up eating.” The people were very proud of themselves.
- Isaiah shook his head. “When you fast, or give up eating, you are supposed to spend the time praying and talking to God. But that’s not what you do. I’ve seen you. You argue and fight and hit each other with your fists. That never makes God happy.”
- “We walk around looking sad. Doesn’t that show God we’re sorry for what we’ve done?”
- “God doesn’t want you to look sad. God just wants you to stop hurting each other.”
- “But we go without food. We wear ragged clothes,” the people said.
- “Take the food you would have eaten and share it with someone who is hungry and has no food. Many poor people wear ragged clothes all the time. Take your good clothes to someone who needs clothes. Share what you have with others.”
- “But how will God know we are doing things for others?”
- “God always knows. God knows everything. God can see your light shining when you do good things for others.”
- “Our light shining? What light?”
- “Feed those who are hungry. Take care of those who are in trouble. The good things you do will be like a light shining in the darkness. What you do will shine as bright as the sunlight at noon” (Isaiah 58:10 adapted).
- The people were beginning to understand. “Give with kindness to those in need. Help others.”
- They were glad they could let their light shine for God.

Up and at ‘Em

Play with flashlights. Children will enjoy drawing pictures with the light on the walls or floor. Play a game where children try to step on the spot of light. Teach the song “Share Your Light” to the tune of “If You’re Happy.” March around and keep time to the music with the flashlights.

Share Your Light

by Marge Nelson

If you want to shine for Jesus,
share your light.
If you want to shine for Jesus,
share your light.
Be a friend to one another, as a
sister or a brother.
If you want to shine for Jesus,
share your light.

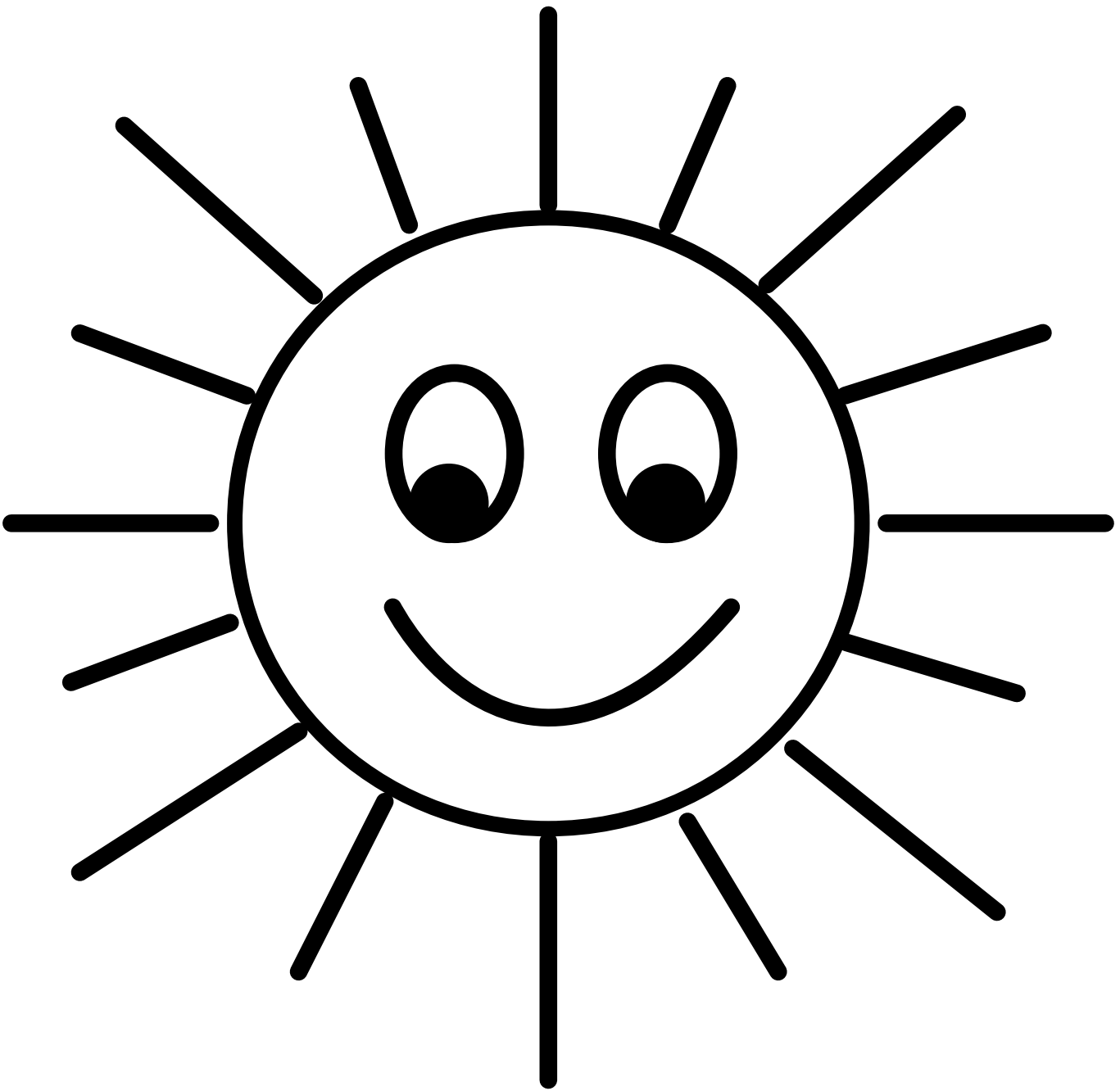
(Sing these words to the tune
of “If You’re Happy and You
Know It”.)

Moving Music

- “This Little Light of Mine” (page 40)
- “Shine, Jesus, Shine,” NS 45
- “Share Your Light”
- “If You’re Happy” (page 40)

There We Go

Send the children home with the things they made. Encourage them to share the stories with their families.



I can help others.
I can let my light
shine.