

Light of the World/ Salt of the Earth

Teacher Pep Talk: God uses a variety of word pictures to describe the Church. During the next three lessons we will be learning about some of these pictures, including: the Light of the World, the Salt of the Earth, the Body of Christ, and the Bride of Christ. These pictures reveal how members of the Church relate to the world, to one another, and to Christ Himself. They also tell us of the Present work of the Church and the Future destiny of the Church. And besides, they're just fun to go through with the kids, so that they will know that God has thought through all of this, and that He has a plan for us all!

First up... We are the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth. Or, in other words, let's learn how the Church relates to the World.

NOTE: You may want to consider presenting this material in two separate lessons.

You will need: A picture of something that you like (*preferable a fun picture with lots of things in it. EX: People having a meal or playing a game.*)
Various items depending on the Activities chosen

Major Points: Jesus Sometimes Gave Us Word Pictures
Jesus Said the Church is the Light of the World
Jesus Said the Church is the Salt of the Earth

Scripture Ref: Matthew 5:13-16

Memory Verse: Let your light shine...Matthew 5:16
You are the salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13

Lesson: **Jesus Sometimes Gave Us Word Pictures**

- (*Bring a picture of something that you like to class.*)
- I brought something for you to see today. Do you see this picture? (*Show the picture to the children.*)
- What do you see in the picture? (*Take some time and let the children describe the picture.*)
- It takes a while to say all the things that are going on in this picture, doesn't it?
- People sometimes say that "A picture is worth a thousand words." (*Wow! 1,000! That's a lot of words!*)
- When we see a picture we're able to understand things fast, but sometimes it would take longer to explain it with words.
- Jesus sometimes gave us word pictures to help us understand things better and faster.
- Today we are going to learn about 2 of these word pictures.

Jesus Said the Church is the Light of the World

- One day Jesus was talking to His followers
- He wanted to tell them what they meant to the world
- He used some word pictures to tell them about it.
- The first one He told them was “You are the Light of the World.”
- Hmm... I wonder what that means. Let’s think about that for a minute. I wonder what it means to be the Light of the World.
- What is a light like? *(Wait for answers. It is bright, gives light, helps you see, gets rid of the dark, etc.)*
- Do any of you have a night light? *(I used to have one)*
- *(At this point in the lesson, consider turning off the lights in the room or darkening the room in some way – See Demonstration.)*
- So, if it’s dark and you turn on a light
 - You can see
 - Maybe you can move around and do stuff better
- What if you had to live in the dark all the time and there was no light? *(That would be sad.)*
- Jesus said, “You are the Light of the World.” So, that must be a good thing. It means that the world doesn’t always have to be in darkness

Demonstration:

Darken the room

Light a candle and put it on a candle holder OR Turn on a flashlight

(Alternatively: Use an electric candle, if you have one available.)

- Jesus also said, “When you light a lamp” (or a candle) “you don’t hide it under a bushel” (or a basket or something)
- When you light a candle, you put it on a candle holder so that everyone can see it and use the light
- (By the way, boys and girls, never put a real lighted candle under anything... it might cause a fire!)

If you are using a flashlight or an electric candle, put them under a basket or something to hide the light for a minute. Show how it gets darker in the room with the light covered Then uncover the light and let it shine!

NOTE: DO NOT put a lighted candle under a basket – FIRE HAZARD!!

- Jesus said “Let your light shine before others!”
- Since the church is the Light of the World, we are to do good things to help others learn about Jesus

Activity: Sing “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine,
I’m gonna let it shine.
(Repeat x 2)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

(Hold first finger up, like a candle.)

Hide it under a bushel? NO!
I’m gonna let it shine.
(Repeat x 2)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

(Take other hand and cover finger.)
(Remove hand at the word “NO!”)

Don’t let Satan (whhh) it out!
I’m gonna let it shine.
(Repeat x 2)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

(At “whhh” make a blowing sound)

OPTION: Either you can continue with the lesson or skip to the activities and do the second part of the lesson during the next class time.

Jesus Said the Church is the Salt of the Earth

- Jesus gave us word pictures to help us understand what He was saying.
- One day Jesus said to His followers, “You are the Salt of the Earth.”
- Hmm. Let’s think about that. I wonder what that means.
- What is salt like? (*Wait for answers: “Salty, tastes icky, you can use it with pepper, we put it on our food sometimes.”*)
- Believe it or not, salt is actually really important. Your body needs some salt (*actually there is already quite a bit of it in our food.*) Animals have to have salt, too. (Cows, sheep, etc.)
- Another use for salt is drying or “curing” meat to keep it good.
- Before refrigerators the only way to keep meat from going bad was to cure it (by using smoke)OR to dry it by using SALT
- This helped keep the meat good
- The salt helped to “preserve” things.
- This is the meaning that Jesus was talking about
- When Jesus said that His followers were the salt of the earth, He meant that the church was to help preserve the world.
- The church helps keep the world from going completely bad

Demonstration

Bring in a small dish with a little salt in it
Let all the children taste a little of the salt

- Jesus also gave us a warning with this word picture, too. (*Just like when He said, "You are the light of the world."*)
- Jesus warned that the salt should not lose its saltiness
- He said that if the salt loses its saltiness, then it's not worth anything anymore.
- He said that then it was just worth throwing out and walking on it
- Only salt is salty.

Demonstration (continued)

Now bring in a small dish with a little sugar in it

Set it down next to the dish with the salt in it.

Talk about how the two things are alike.

They are both white

They are both crystals

They look just alike.

Allow the children to see the sugar and taste it.

- Even though the sugar and the salt may look alike, they aren't!
- Only salt is salty.
- In the same way, all religions are not alike
- Believing in Jesus is different from everything else!
- Don't be tricked by things that aren't the same!
- Let's pray and thank God that we can be salt and light!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus.
Thank you that He makes us the Light of the World.
Thank you that He makes us the Salt of the Earth.
Thank you that you love us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Choose 2-3 activities that seem to work well with your group.

NOTE: If you are taking two classes for this lesson, then choose either Light of the World or Salt of the Earth activities to do, depending on your lesson. You may want to continue larger art projects from one class time to another.

Candle Drawing – *The children will color an activity sheet of a candle and flame.*

Before Class: Make a copy of the activity sheet for each child in class. Provide crayons, colored pencils, markers, or watercolors. May use yarn as well for colors; if so, provide scissors and glue as well. Allow project to dry before taking home.

During Class: Give each child a copy of the activity sheet. Explain that flames are not always just one color. They may have some blue or green at the base, and red, orange, and yellow at the top. Ask the children to color both the flame and the candle.

Talk about Stars – *The children will learn about letting our lights shine.*

Before Class: Bring something to represent the stars to class. For example: A picture of some stars in the sky, or a flashlight to shine on the ceiling in the dark, or some star cut-outs that you can hang from the ceiling with fishing line.

During Class: Talk about the stars in the sky at night. Tell the children that the stars have been in the sky for a very long time, and that for a long time people have used the stars to help find their way; especially in ships on the sea at night. But, what if some of the stars decided they would just quit shining? OOPS! That would be a problem for us! We need those stars to know where we are! We don't want them to quit shining!

We have talked a lot about being the Light of the World today. Sometimes we may wonder, since our light is so small, if it is helping anyone else. The truth is that people all around us really need the light! And, believe it or not, they are paying attention; even though we may not know it at the time! We need to keep letting our light shine! And if it gets darker around us, it will only make our lights seem brighter!

Constellations – *The children will learn about stars and make a constellation or two.*

Before Class: Provide large dark sheets of construction paper and white crayons or little star stickers (EX: white, silver, or gold.) Or choose light colored paper, yellow crayons and watercolors. (See *alternative*.) Bring examples of constellations to class. (Attached, there is an example sheet of constellations for the teacher.)

During Class: Show the children some examples of constellations. (Use the reference sheet if it will help you.) Discuss how the stars are like our sun (or maybe even bigger) but that they are so far away from us that they seem tiny and not very bright. Even though the stars are in the sky all of the time, we are only able to see the stars at night. When the sun comes up, it is so bright that we can't see the stars in the daytime.

Sometimes we think of the stars in groups, that we call "constellations". We give these groups of stars names like: The Big Dipper, the Little Dipper, Orion, the Pleiades, etc. (See attached sheet.)

The stars have helped us find our way for a long, long time. Most of the stars seem to move across the sky at night, but that is only because our earth is always turning on its axis. The only star that doesn't seem to move (for us) is the North Star. It is over the north most part of the earth, and that's why it doesn't seem to move. The North Star is the last star in the handle of the Little Dipper. When we see the North Star in the sky, we can always know which way is north.

Show the pictures of the various constellations. Draw them on the chalkboard, so that the children can see them better. Ask the children to choose a constellation and recreate it on their dark construction paper with the little stars or with white crayons.

Alternatively: Use light colored crayons (yellow) on white paper to make the stars. (Make sure that you press the crayon down firmly when drawing the stars!) Now use dark shades of watercolors to color in the night sky around the stars. You can watercolor right over the stars, if you have pressed down hard enough with the crayon!

Find the Salt – *The children will learn to distinguish between salt and sugar.*

NOTE: You may want to do this activity during the lesson!

Before Class: Bring two small, similar containers to class. Bring salt and sugar to class. Just before class, pour some salt into one container and sugar into the other container.

During Class: Tell the children that one of the things in the containers is sugar and that the other is salt. Ask them if they can tell which one is salt and which one is sugar. (Don't let them taste of them yet!) Note how they both look alike. They are both made of tiny, white crystals. They look a LOT alike. They are hard to tell apart.

SAFETY NOTE: Tell the children "Since we know that these are just salt and sugar, it's ok for us to taste them. We don't want to go around tasting things just to try and figure out what they are...No! That's not safe. But since I poured these into these bowls just before class, we know what they are and that it's safe for us to taste them."

Now taste the salt and the sugar. Allow each child to taste each one and decide which one is the salt and which one is the sugar. Even though they look the same, they do not taste the same. Remember that Jesus said that for salt to be worth anything it has to remain salty! Accepting Jesus as our Savior is what makes Christians different from people who try to get to God some other way. Not all religions are the same. Don't be fooled by things that may look the same, but are actually different!

The Spice of Life – *The children will learn about different types of cooking spices.*

Before Class: Obtain different kinds of cooking spices. Examples: Cinnamon, Oregano, Cumin, Nutmeg, and Thyme. Consider also Bay Leaves, Rosemary, etc. Check out your spice cabinet for some good smelling ideas! Put samples of each into small containers. Make two sets of 3x5 cards with the names of all the spices on them. Bring masking tape to class. Put one set of the cards out next to their correct spices, but turn the cards over, so the names are hidden! Tape down one edge of each card, so that when the children flip over the card they will be able to read the answer! Place the other set of cards (with the names on them) in a pile nearby.

During Class: Show the children the various spices and explain that they all smell differently. Allow the children to smell each one and tell them the names of the spices. Show them the extra set of cards with the correct names of the spices on them. Place the extra cards in front of each spice as you tell them about them. Then flip over the hidden card and show them that the names match! After everyone has heard about the spices, let the children work alone or in small groups, to decide which card name goes with which spice. Have them put down the card next to the spice and then flip over the answer card to see the answer. This allows them to check their own work!

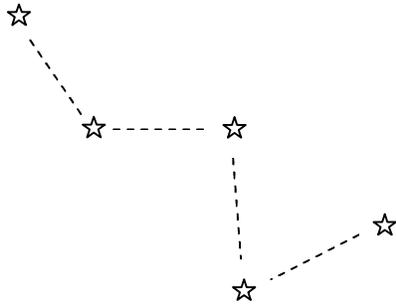
Salt of the Earth – *The children will make a poster decorated with glue and salt.*

Before Class: Provide copies of the activity sheet, glue and salt. You will need a lot of salt! (Use an edible salt: table salt, kosher salt, or edible rock salt – like you put around the ice cream freezer.) Use newspaper or a plastic tablecloth to cover the work area.

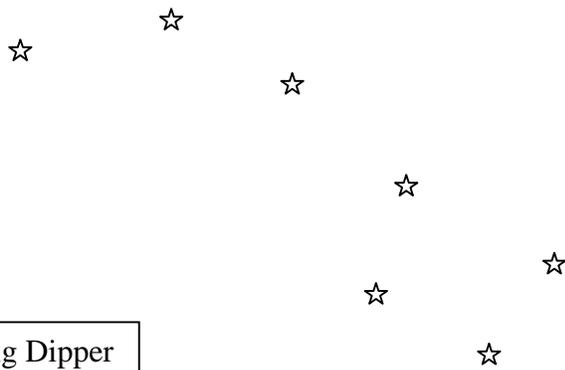
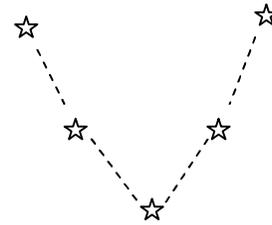
NOTE: Do not use the "salt" that is used for de-icing sidewalks! It can be poisonous!

During Class: Color the page as you like. Then put a light film of glue over the letters in SALT. Pour salt over the glue. Tap off the extra. Allow to dry. Take home when dry.

Cassiopeia



Taurus

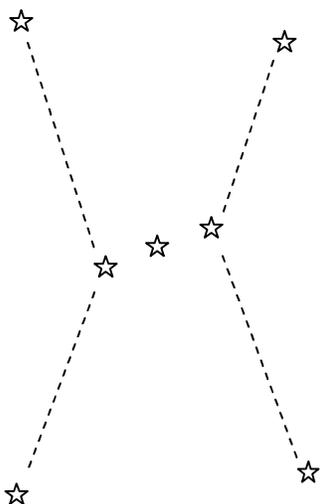


Big Dipper

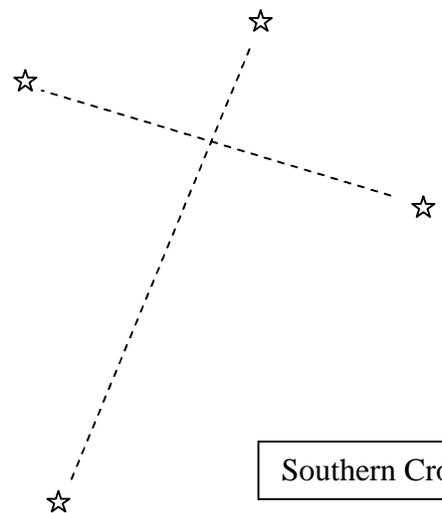
North Star



Little Dipper



Orion



Southern Cross



*Jesus said, "You are the
Light of the World."*

*...let your
light
shine...*

You are the

SALT

of the Earth!