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Top 50 Science–Based Bible Lessons

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Published by RoseKidz®

an imprint of Hendrickson Publishing Group

Rose Publishing, LLC

P.O. Box 3473

Peabody, Massachusetts 01961-3473 USA

www.hendricksonpublishinggroup.com

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ISBN: 978-1-62862-960-6

RoseKidz® reorder# R50022

RELIGION/Christian Ministry/Children

Printed in United States of America

Printed May 2020



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1. GOD CREATES LIGHT

GENESIS 1:1–5; JOHN 1:1–5,14,17

Jesus . . . said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

John 8:12



OVERVIEW

Say: Let’s all close our eyes tightly. Now that your eyes are closed, what can you see? (*Children respond.*) What would happen if we all got up and ran around the room with our eyes closed? (*Children respond.*) We need light to be able to see where we are going! You can open your eyes now!

What are some other reasons we need light? (*Children respond.*) Light is SO important. We could not live without it! That’s one reason why the Bible tells us that **Jesus is the light of the world**. We’ll talk more about that in a few minutes! (*Open with prayer requests, praises, and a time of prayer.*)

BIBLE STORY

Say: (*Read Genesis 1:1–5 aloud.*) When God made the world, what did he create first? (*Children respond.*) Light! God could have created everything at once. Why do you think he chose to make light first? (*Children respond.*) What do you think is the most important thing about light? (*Children respond.*)

There is another place in the Bible that describes creation. Listen to this! (*Read John 1:1–5 aloud.*) Wow! Who is the Word? (*Children respond.*) Let’s read verses fourteen and seventeen for clues! (*Read John 1:14 aloud, pausing to let children guess who it is talking about. Then read verse 17 aloud.*) Jesus is the one John describes as the creator of the world.

Do you know what Jesus called himself? (*Read John 8:12 aloud.*) Jesus is the light of the world. What are some of the reasons we said we need light? (*Children respond.*) Without light, there is no life. If the sun were a little farther away from Earth, we’d freeze to death. If it were a little closer to Earth, it would be too hot for humans to live!

God made the world through Jesus. He gives us the light that gives life! Even people who don’t know Jesus yet live in the light he gives us! Jesus wants us to understand that we need him for everything. I’m so glad that **Jesus is the light of the world**.





OPENING GAME

IN THE DARK

Optional Preparation: Set up an obstacle course in the playing area using tables, chairs, toys, or anything you'd like.

Directions: Children find a partner and stand in pairs at the outside edges of the playing area. One partner closes their eyes. On the leader's signal, the seeing partner guides the child who cannot see from one side of the playing area to the other. The goal is to get safely across without bumping into anyone or anything. Give children about a minute to move across, and then have partners switch assignments and move back to their original spot.

Say: When you were in the dark, who did you have to trust? (*Children respond.*) What would have happened if you had tried to cross the area without your partner guiding you? (*Children respond.*)

When we don't know what to do, or don't have light to see where to go, we can trust Jesus because **Jesus is the light of the world.** That means he shows us what to do. He is always ready to help us. Jesus' light is also inside anyone who believes in him. Like being guided by our partner who had the light, we can trust Jesus, instead of going our own way.

Tip: Some children don't like blindfolds. Let the child choose whether to wear a blindfold for this game.

Optional

- obstacles (tables, chairs, toys, etc.)



OBJECT LESSON

THE NATURE OF LIGHT

Tip: Provide enough flashlights and hand mirrors that several teams of children can work to reflect the light onto the target.

Preparation: Tape the sheet of paper to the wall at chest height. This is the target for the light reflecting experiment.

Say: Let's take a vote. Who here thinks light travels in a straight line? (*Children respond.*) Who thinks light bends? (*Children respond.*) We're going to experiment to find out!

Directions: Give two or three children each a hand mirror. Darken the room. Shine a flashlight at the mirror of the child closest to you. Child angles their mirror so that the light hits another mirror. That child then angles their mirror so that it hits another mirror or hits the target paper.

Materials

- tape
- paper
- hand mirrors
- flashlights



SHADOW PLAY

Preparation: Photocopy the Shadow Animals on page 10, making one copy for each child.

Directions: Distribute Shadow Animals to children.

Depending on the size of your wall and the number of children, assign some children to hold flashlights while others make shadow shapes with their hands. Invite children to create a story about the shapes while they are making them.

Tip: Set a slide projector so it shines onto the wall instead of using flashlights.

Developmental Tip: For younger children, provide cardboard shapes to hold up and make shadows as well as using their hands.

Say: We're going shine light on our hands to make fun shadows! Look at the shapes on your page. See if you can make some of them. Or you can make your own shapes! Just like we need the light to make these shadow shapes, we need Jesus in our lives so we can live! **Jesus is the light of the world.**

Materials

- Shadow Animals, page 10
- flashlights





OPENING GAME

LIGHT SWEEPER

Directions: Dim the lights. Give a flashlight to a volunteer who will be the light bearer. Use more flashlights if you have a very large group. Light bearer stands at one side of the playing area, lit flashlight in hand, and back to the group.

Children start at the opposite side of the play area. Light bearer repeats the first part of the Bible verse: "Both day and night belong to you." Children may move while the light bearer's back is turned, until the word "you" is spoken. On "you," children must freeze and reply, "You made the starlight and the sun" as light bearer turns and sweeps the light across the playing area once.

Anyone touched by the light returns to the start area. Play continues until one child moves all the way across and then becomes the new light bearer.

Say: We're learning our Bible verse while we play! Who is "you" in this verse? (Children respond.) Yes! The "you" is God. God loves us. **God shows his love in his creation!**

Tip: For a greater challenge, place colored cellophane over the lit end of another flashlight and secure with a rubber band. Use this as the "unfreeze" light for one player to sweep one time as he or she repeats the second part of the Bible verse.

Materials

- flashlight



OBJECT LESSON

MOON SHADOWS

Tip: You may set up more than one experiment area for smaller groups of children.

Say: When the moon is full, what does it look like? (Children respond.) Some people look at a full moon and see a face. What causes this face? Is it really a face? (Children respond.) Let's try today's experiment to see how the face is made.

Directions: Set up six to eight dominoes in any way you like. Darken the room. Shine the flashlight at the dominoes from about 12 inches away.

Change the angle of the flashlight. Give children time to look at the change.

Invite a child to move the dominoes to make a different pattern.

Invite volunteers to work together to see if they can make a shallow pattern that looks like the "man in the moon."

Say: Don't look at the dominoes. Look at the pattern of the shadows they make. What happens when we change

Materials

- flashlight
- dominoes





MOON COOKIES

Preparation: Photocopy the Moon Phases on page 15, making one copy for each child.

Directions: Distribute Moon Phases to children. Children look at the phases of the moon. Children clean hands, and then break off parts of one side of their cookies to match the shapes they see. Children may lay their “moon cookies” on paper plates in a circle or on top of the examples on the page—and then, of course, eat their moon cookies!

Say: God made the moon to shine differently every night. It not only gives us a marker for the months but also affects the tides of the ocean! **God shows his love in his creation!**

Tip: Want kids to have fewer cookies to eat? Do this activity in pairs or trios.

Materials

- Moon Phases, page 15
- chocolate sandwich cookies
- wipes
- paper plates

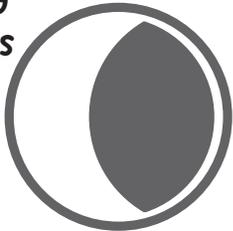




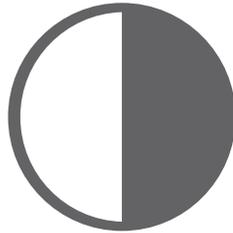
MOON PHASES

Look at the phases of the moon. Break your cookies to match the moon phases.

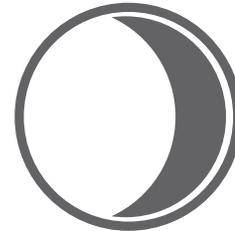
Waxing
Gibbous



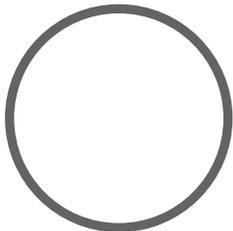
First Quarter



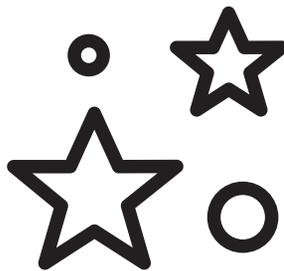
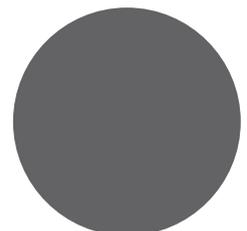
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Crescent



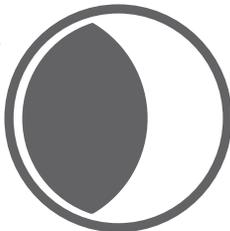
Full
Moon



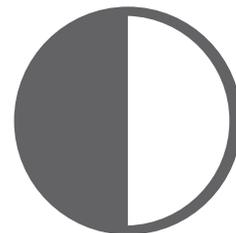
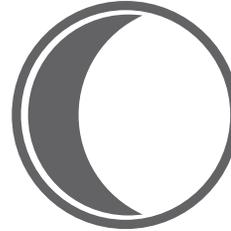
New
Moon



Waning
Gibbous



Waning
Crescent



Last Quarter