

Jesus Lights Our Way

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 6****Focus:**

The light of Jesus helps us to see the truth.

Lesson 6**Bible Basis:**

John 8:12; 9

Lesson 6**Memory Verse:**

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”—John 8:12

As they watch the history of the Times Square ball, students will talk about light and learn that Jesus’ light helps us see the truth.

Materials:

- Internet access

- **What tools can we use to light up the night?** (Answers may include: flashlights; candles; a bonfire, smartphones, etc.)
- **What’s the purpose of using these tools on a dark night?** (Answers may include: They help us get where we need to go; they get us someplace safely; they show us the way, etc.)

Tools to combat the darkness are necessary! Otherwise, we’d never be able to walk outside on a dark night. Other lights are used to symbolize things—like the torch carried by the Statue of Liberty or the Olympic torch runner. There’s one light which has been used each December 31st night for the past 112 years—the famous Times Square ball drop in New York City. This dazzling, sparkly ball fills the darkness each New Year’s Eve, to symbolize the beginning of a brand-new year in a time-honored tradition. You may have watched it happen on New Year’s Eve this year or heard about the famous ball drop. Let’s watch a little bit of its history.

Play the following clip [4:21; stop at 3:07]:
Behind The Scenes Of The Times Square Ball | TODAY
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrQBglYgqes>

- **What are your traditions on New Year’s Eve?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Why do you think watching the ball drop in Times Square on New Year’s Eve has become such a tradition for many in our country?** (Answers might include: It’s something to look forward to; starting a new year is a big deal and the ball drop is a great way to bring the year in, people like things they can depend on, it’s fun to be part of history, etc.)

No matter which ball has been used over the past 115 years, its purpose still remains, to light up the darkness of that night and guide us brightly into a new year.

Today, we're going to learn about Someone who called Himself the Light of the world. He came to do away with darkness. Let's find out more.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 6 / January 8, 2023

Jesus Lights Our Way

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 6

Focus:
The light of
Jesus helps us to
see the truth.

Lesson 6

Bible Basis:

John 8:12; 9

Lesson 6

Memory Verse:

I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk
in darkness, but will have the light

Materials:

- New Year's Resolutions worksheets (1 per student)
- Bible Reading Plan printouts (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils

Before class, print off New Year's Resolutions worksheets for your students. You can create your own or use one of the worksheets from this website (scroll to the bottom of the webpage, there are 3 different goal worksheets available). (If your class is meeting online, email the links to families ahead of time. Invite students to bring printouts and pens/pencils with them to class.)

New Year's Resolutions + Printable Worksheets

<https://lifewithme.com/goal-worksheet-printable/>

Also, print out the Bible Reading Plan found here (one per student):

One-Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan—free printable PDF

https://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/pdf/dbrp/1Yr_ChronologicalPlan.pdf

Earlier we talked about Jesus as the Light of the world. He is the Light that will guide us in the way of truth.

➤ **What ways can we let Jesus light our way this year?** (Answers might include: Pray more often to have a closer relationship with Him; read the Bible; have devotions with Him each day; obey His Word, etc.)

New years are always about reflection. We naturally think about what we did last year and what we might want to change and do better this year.

➤ **What are some of your New Year's resolutions for 2023?** (Answers will vary, but may include similar answers to these: make the soccer team this year; get good grades the rest of the year; learn to play clarinet, etc.)

The most important thing we can do to begin this new year is to make sure we are not spiritually blinded like those in today's lesson. We can evaluate our relationship with Jesus. Are we making time for Him every day? Do we read our Bibles so He can teach us His truth? Do we pray because we crave talking to God? If so, what can we continue? If not, what can we change?

Pass out the New Year's Resolution goal sheets. There are three available to print off on the website. You can choose the one you like best for your class or give them the option of choosing for themselves. Also, print out the Bible Reading Plan for any students who would like to make that a goal.

Have students take time to pray about what God wants for them this upcoming year. Preteens can evaluate their past year and ways they know Jesus wants to light up their world and then write goals to fulfill those ways on the worksheets provided. As students begin to work, let them know you'd love to talk to anyone further about salvation if they have questions. Help with sharing the Gospel with this age group is available in your teacher's guide.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song in the background as students work [5:06]:

DC Talk - In the Light

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WIRt8z5bHA>

This week pray that Jesus would be your Light. Pray that He would put His desires in you; the desire to grow close to Him through prayer, reading, and worship. Then, hang your resolutions somewhere you'll see them every day and trust that Jesus will light your way into reaching the goals you've set for 2023.

Pray to close.

Additional resources:

YouVersion Bible App for Kids

<https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app-for-kids/>

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