



# Kids Club

Leader Guide

# April

## Week 4

### Supplies Needed:

1. **YouTube Video** (optional): Douglas Talks - Letting Your Light Shine - How Kids Can Share Their Faith  
<https://youtu.be/f-EDzu3oelo?si=oX4xSYqiJwD2DbDG>
2. **White board/marker** for leader to play “guess the word”
3. **Character Muscles Assessment**
4. **Character Muscles Next Steps**
5. **Memory Verse Light Bulb page**

### Suggested Schedule:

5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break  
20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up  
30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer  
10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

**Today's Focus:** Let Your Light Shine!

### Weekly Verse: Matthew 5:16

“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

**Rock Bridge Mission:** We exist to glorify God by connecting people from all walks of life to life in Christ. When we Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent we can accomplish our mission! *When we strive for excellence in how we treat others, we get to let our light shine and tell others about God's love!*

**Try this:** Introduce the phrase “Let Your Light Shine!” through a “fill in the blanks by guessing the letters type of game”, give hints as needed. You can also have them guess the book of the Bible our memory verse will come from today (Matthew).

**Read this:** Matthew 5:14-16

When Jesus told us we are the light of the world, He was giving us a picture of who we are supposed to be. We are to be Christians everywhere we go. We should act in such a way that others see Jesus in us, and because of what they see, they glorify God.

One problem is that we think about lights today where we can use a switch to turn them on and off. So when we look at Christians in our lives, we might see some - or even *be* ones - who flip the switch on whether we are acting like Jesus or not based on what's happening around us. If we don't feel like showing kindness and compassion to the meanest kid in our class, we turn our light off. But if it's the cool new kid who needs help, then we switch our light back on and show them just how kind we can be. When we don't want to stand out and be different from our friends, we switch it off again. But then when we feel like doing something for Jesus, we turn it back on again. On, off, on, off...sometimes, we turn our light off as soon as our sibling talks to us in the car leaving church...and we don't even turn it back on again until we come to church the next week.

Funny thing is, that doesn't work. When we act like the world, like people who don't know Jesus.....the world thinks we're just like them. Then when we decide to turn on our light, the world sees us as a fake, a phony.

The truth is, switching the light off means knowingly and willingly choosing to sin. We are not doing what Jesus told us to do. Sin brings darkness instead of light. Remember, Jesus said we are not to put our lamp under a basket and hide it.

**Watch this:** *(If you can, play the “Douglas Talks: Let Your Light Shine” video)*

**Do this:** Sometimes, we really are trying our best to shine Jesus' light everywhere we go and in everything we do. But, as we continue to grow and learn, God shows us ways that our character has to change to look more like Him. Pass out the **Character Muscle test** and help your kids look at which areas they need to work on so that when they are encountering others, their lights can shine and people will want to glorify God! Use the **Character Muscles Next Steps** to chat through what your kids can do starting next week.

*Tip: Help bridge the gap between 'struggling' and 'great' readers by reading the questions aloud and letting kids answer on their own papers. Remind them that there are no right or wrong answers, just be honest so they can take the next best steps for themselves.*

**Talk about this:** The bottom line is that we are not truly able to let our light shine until we have our own relationship with Jesus by choosing to follow Him. John 8:12 says that *"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"*

Remind kids that WE are not truly the source of light. Romans 3:10 tells us that "that is none good, no not one." **The true source of light and good comes from Jesus alone.** He shines light into our sinful hearts and the Holy Spirit leads us to repent. As we gain wisdom and learn what we need to work on to look more like Jesus, He changes us and uses us to show His light. "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Live as children of light.**" (Ephesians 5:8)

*Tip: Always listen for any next steps that your kids want to take in their own relationship with Jesus and be willing to answer their questions!*

### **Questions to chat through:**

- How would you describe darkness? Darkness is like \_\_\_\_\_?
- What are some things that would be really difficult to do in the dark? (Compare how quickly light changes these situations)
- List some possible areas where kids around you need more light. (Highlight how opening our eyes to the opportunities around us is really the greatest gift we have to let our Christ-like character shine)

- When are some times where you could personally use someone around you to shine light? (Remind kids that we are meant to do life together and God uses others to help us focus on Him when we struggle with our own sins)
- Can you think of someone in your life who shows such good character traits that you think of God when they're around? (God gives us people around us who are imitating Him, we should learn from them.)

### **Memory Verse Activity: Light Bulb Sheet**

Give each kid a light bulb and ask them to fill in the blanks. Have each kid say the memory verse aloud. If they read it, encourage them to practice until they can say it confidently.

**Matthew 5:16:** "In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

## **Character Muscles Next Steps**

There are a lot of ways to develop your character! Below are some ideas of things you can do in each area to look more like Jesus when faced with different opportunities. Remember, we don't do this for our own recognition, but so that we can point to Jesus!

### **Caring:**

- Care** about others. Be kind, helpful, and sharing.
- Ask** about other people. Be a good listener.
- Respect** all people, property, animals, and the earth.
- Include** others. Watch to see if anyone feels lonely or left out to include them.
- Never** hold a grudge. Forgive others because it's the right thing to do.
- Give** to others. Help other people feel good, learn, and grow.

### **Citizenship:**

- Care** about your community, state, and country. Obey the laws and rules.
- Improve** something in your home or neighborhood.
- Take** the time to learn about how your government works.
- Involve** yourself by becoming a leader at school or at church.
- Zero in** on something that needs fixing and work with others to do the job.
- Encourage** your parents and other adults you know to vote.
- Never** forget to show respect for people, animals, plants, and property.

**Cooperation** - It's easy to cooperate when everyone agrees. But a person who *talks* when they disagree can figure out the best way to cooperate well:

- Talk** about what happened. Be honest. Explain why each of you did what you did. Were you tired? Angry? Grumpy?
- Act** and talk politely. Talk about the problem, not the person. Say, "I don't like it when someone takes my pencil." Or, "I don't like it when my toys are missing."
- Listen** to the other person's side of the story. Think about how he or she might feel. Ask questions so you understand. Learning to listen takes a lot of practice. Don't give up!
- Keep** trying to cooperate. Have an open mind. Try different ideas to succeed.
- Share** in finding a solution. Find an answer to your problem that both of you can agree on.

### Fairness:

**Find** ways to share and take turns with a joyful heart because you get to give.

**Ask** people what you can do to help make things more fair.

**Include** others in games and activities. Don't leave people out.

**Respect** people who are different from you.

Forgiveness - you can't control others, but you can always apologize when you hurt others.

**Say** you're sorry.

**Offer** your friendship.

**Repair** what you did, if you can.

**Resist** doing it again. This can be hard, but keep trying.

**Yank** out your bad feelings like weeds, so there's room in your heart to forgive yourself.

### Honesty:

**Hold** on to your identity in Christ. Make sure your family, teachers, and friends know that you're genuine— always truthful about who you are.

**Own** up to mistakes that you make, even if you're afraid you'll get in trouble.

**Remember** that lying leads to even more trouble.

**Never** keep silent when it's important to tell the truth. When you know about a lie and don't say anything, you're letting the lie live on. Turn a silent lie into a loud truth by speaking up.

**Earn** people's trust by keeping your promises to them and by never cheating or stealing. Take back anything you borrow, and never take anything without asking.

**Stop** and think about what really happened so you can tell it truthfully. Also think about what might happen if you don't tell the truth.

**Tell** your family, your teacher, or another adult you trust that you've made a promise to always tell the truth.

### Relationships:

**Find** out all you can about each other. Be friendly, fair, and forgiving.

**Respect** each other and act responsibly. Remember birthdays. Read together.

**Include** others. Share your interests. Imagine together.

**Explore** and enjoy things together.

**Need** each other. Be nice. Never lie or be unkind.

**Depend** on each other. Dare to dream and develop your interests together.

**Share** yourself, your family, and your friends with other people. Sing together.

**Smile.**

### Respect:

**Reach** out to others and learn about their beliefs and customs.

**Enjoy** the differences among people—they make life interesting!

**Show** respect for rules and laws by obeying them.

**Put** on your best manners. Speak politely, help people, and choose kind words.

**Eat** right, get plenty of sleep and exercise, learn healthy habits, and respect yourself.

**Care** about plants and animals and the air and water that living things need.

**Treat** property that belongs to you and other people carefully.

### Responsibility:

**Consider** what might happen—think before you act.

**Help** yourself be responsible by getting and staying organized.

**Obey** rules and laws in your home, school, and community.

**Ignore** bad ideas that pop into your head. Change what you're doing or think about something good instead.

**Choose** to do what honors God.

**Earn** people's trust by showing that they can count on you.

## Safety:

**Stick** to safety rules at school, on the bus, on the street, at home, and in sports and other activities.

**Ask** a trusted adult to help you if you see something dangerous or if you don't feel safe.

**Focus** on being careful, knowing what to do in an emergency, and making safe choices.

**Encourage** your friends to be safe, too. Stick to what you know is right even if friends tease you or try to change your mind.

**Trust** God's Word to guide you to do what is right.

**Yell** for help if you're in danger or if you see someone else in danger.