Preschool–Grade 6

The Sermon on the Mount

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus wants me to shine, and God takes care of me.
Bible passage: Matthew 5–7. Read Matthew 5:1–2, 5:14–16 and 6:26–30 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Let your light so shine" *Matthew 5:16 (KJV)*. The old words mean: let your light shine so people can see it.
You need: a Bible, a flashlight, a bowl, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 5. Check that the flashlight works.

1. Opening game: Birds and Flowers (5 minutes)

Say: "Let's be birds!" Kids flap their arms and "fly" around the room. When you say "Flowers!" everyone crouches down like a little seed, then slowly grows up tall with arms open like a flower. Switch back and forth a few times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story. Jesus talked about birds and flowers, and He said God takes care of them, and God takes care of us too."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 5. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Lots and lots of people followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25). *(Spread your arms wide.)*
Jesus went up on a mountain (5:1). *(Make a mountain with your arms over your head.)*
Jesus sat down and taught them (5:1–2). *(Sit down.)*
Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world" (5:14). Ye means you. *(Point to the kids.)*
Don't hide a light under a basket (5:15). *(Cover the flashlight with the bowl.)*
Put it up high so it shines (5:15). *(Lift the bowl and hold the light up high.)*
Say it with me: "Let your light shine!"
Jesus said to look at the birds (6:26). *(Flap your arms.)*
God feeds the birds (6:26). *(Pretend to peck food.)*
Jesus said to look at the flowers (6:28). *(Open your hands like a flower.)*
God makes the flowers beautiful (6:29–30). *(Smell the flower.)*
Say it with me: "God takes care of me!"
Jesus said to be kind to others, the way we want them to be kind to us (7:12). *(Give yourself a hug.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus wants me to shine!"

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus sit down to teach? *(On a mountain, Matthew 5:1)*
2. Should we hide our light? *(No! Let it shine, 5:15–16)*
3. Who feeds the birds? *(God, 6:26)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'Let your light so shine.' That means let your light shine so people can see it." Teach the motion: hold your hands closed in front of you, then open them wide with fingers spread, like light shining out. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 5:16" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus wants us to shine for Him. God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Shine Bright (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a candle and color big yellow light shining all around it. Say: "Jesus wants us to shine! We shine when we are kind, when we share, and when we obey." While they color, ask: "Should we hide our light? Who feeds the birds?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for taking care of me.
Help me shine for You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let each child take a turn lifting the bowl off the flashlight and saying "Shine!" Keep the story moving and do every motion big. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post