



# A LIGHT TO OUR PATH

## How the Bible Changed the World

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 9: SPREADING THE KINGDOM

### 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** This lesson is inspired by the book “The Book that Made Your World – How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization” by Vishal Mangalwadi. This book is highly recommended as background reading for the teacher.

**Objectives** To explain that

- Today's lesson is about how the true words of the Bible can spread God's Kingdom and make the world a better place.
- The Bible is the most important and influential book in the whole world. It has inspired millions of people to develop the areas of education, equality, justice, and healthcare for all people.
- The Holy Spirit works through the Bible to change people's hearts. Their changed heart enables them to take action towards changing the world.
- The Bible is a light to our path. It shows us the best way to live, and it shows us the way to Jesus, who is the Light of the World.

**Memory Verse** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105 - ESV)

**ACNA  
Catechism  
Connections**

Today's lesson of A Light to Our Path is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q139 What is the work of all Christians? All Christians are to bear witness to Christ in their lives; to care for the poor, strangers, widows, and orphans; and, according to their gifts, to serve Christ in the world and in the Church.

Q181 How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom is announced to the people of Israel, arrives in Jesus Christ, and advances through the Church's mission. It will appear in its fullness once Christ returns in glory.

Q184 What is God's will? God's will is to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus Christ and to establish his kingdom on the earth. His will is revealed in the whole of Scripture and especially in Jesus Christ, whom I am called to serve and imitate with my whole life.

Q185 What do you pray for as you seek God's will? I pray for God to break the dominion of the world, the flesh, and the devil; to establish justice and thwart the plans of the wicked; to strengthen and direct his Church; and to extend the kingdom of his grace.

Q186 How can you do God's will? I can walk in God's will by loving him and my neighbor, and by taking my part in the Church's mission to extend his kingdom in the world.

Q264 How should you understand the Ten Commandments? I should understand them as God's righteous rules for life in his kingdom: basic standards for loving God and my neighbor. In upholding them, I bear witness with the Church to God's righteousness and his will for a just society.

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes**

**Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo).

**Lesson Props:** (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- A regular size Bible
- Copies of previous storyboard symbols for children to pull out of Bible, arranged in the right order from top to bottom: Bible, Made in God's Image, 10 Commandments (in heart shape), and Compassion.
- Pictures to show children as outlined in story (see props document)
- Green felt circles for children to place on storyboard
- Word cards: Education, Equality, Justice, Healthcare
- Storyboard symbol: Sunburst symbol to be placed under the Bible symbol

**Costumes:** None

**Memory Verse:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105 - ESV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

## 2 | Lesson Outline:

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity ( <i>see Resource Section</i> )
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession ( <i>see Resource Section</i> ) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	This Little Light of Mine Song for the Nations (May We Be a Shining Light) <b><i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i></b>
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Story Board Review</b>	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <b><i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i></b>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>



## 4 | Story and Questions

**SETUP:** *The whole lesson is taught by the storyboard. Have the storyboard set up and the symbols hidden in the Bible with one end sticking out. Arrange them in order from top to bottom ("Bible", "Made in the image of God", "10 Commandments" and "Compassion") for the children to pull out. **If the children in your group are younger or your group is large, we recommend using the condensed lesson poster instead of the storyboard for this lesson.***

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is about how the true words of the Bible can spread God's Kingdom and make the world a better place.'*

**STORYBOARD REVIEW:** In our last lesson we heard how God used the prophet Jonah to help spread his Kingdom to the city of Nineveh. *(Point to green felt circles.)* We placed green circles on our storyboard to remind us that God is calling us to spread his good Kingdom by telling others about Jesus.

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** God sent Jonah to the people of Nineveh because of their sin and evil acts that caused their people to suffer.

When we look around the world today, we also see many things that cause people to suffer – people living in poverty and in war, and people being treated badly. It makes us want to change the world, but how do we do that? How do we really change the world to be a better place?

The thing that makes the biggest difference is God's Word, the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

The Bible is the most important and influential book in the whole world. It has inspired millions of people to build schools to give children an **education**, to treat all people **equally** with love and respect, to write good laws and promote **justice**, and to build **hospitals** to care for the sick.

Today we are going to talk about how the Bible helps us to spread God's Kingdom and **change the world** when we love and follow Jesus.

**TEACHER:** I will give each person a green circle and when it's your turn, you can put your circle anywhere on the grey area of the storyboard to represent the spreading and growing of God's wonderful Kingdom.

**ACTION:** Give a green circle to each child. There should be a minimum of 4 circles, but they can be “doubled up” so that each child can participate if there are more than 4 children.

**TEACHER:** Now let's take a look at some of the reasons the Bible is so powerful in changing the world. I have some symbols hidden in this Bible that represent some of the things the Bible teaches us.

**TEACHER:** Who wants to pull out the **first symbol** at the top? (*Child pull out Bible symbol, show it to the class and hold on to it*)

It is a picture of the Bible itself!

(*Hold open the Bible.*) Because **the Bible is a book**, we need to be able to **read** it. Therefore, it is important for everyone to be educated, to learn how to read and write.

Why is it important to be able to read the Bible? It teaches us the truth about God's Kingdom and about the meaning of life. We learn from the Bible that we are created to love God and love others. We learn about Jesus and the forgiveness of sin, and we learn how God wants us to live as human beings.

One way that the Bible inspires us to change the world is through providing **EDUCATION** for all.

**TEACHER:** (*Show picture of child labour.*) What do you see in this picture? (*Let the children respond.*) In many places children don't get to go to school but have to work hard all day to make money to help feed their families. But all over the world, inspired by the Bible, many Christians have built wonderful schools for children to give them an education, a better future, and help them out of poverty.

Let's place a green circle on the grey part of the storyboard to symbolize this way of spreading God's Kingdom in the world.

**ACTION:** Child/children place a green circle/circles on grey area of storyboard. Then the child with the “Bible” symbol places it down on top of the green circle and the teacher places the word “Education” next to it.

The green circle reminds us that the idea of **education for all** was inspired by the Bible. Now, let's look at some other ways that the Bible spreads God's Kingdom and changes the world.

**TEACHER:** Who wants to pull out the **second symbol**? *(Child pull out "made in God's image" symbol, show it to the class and hold on to it.)*

The Bible teaches us that we are **made in God's image**.

*(Show pictures)* Look, here is a picture of a baby still being formed in the mother's womb and a picture of a woman who is very old. Here is a picture of a strong athlete and a picture of someone with disabilities. It doesn't matter whether you are young or old, strong or weak, rich or poor, or the colour of your skin. Each one of us is equally valuable to God. The Bible teaches us to love all people and to treat **everyone** equally with kindness and respect. This is called equality.

Let's place another green circle on the storyboard to remind us of this.

**ACTION:** *Child/children place a green circle/circles on grey area of storyboard. Then the child with the "made in God's image" symbol places it down on top of the green circle and the teacher places the word "Equality" next to it.*

**TEACHER:** The idea of **EQUALITY** comes from the Bible, because we learn there that **all** people are made in God's image and should be treated equally.

**TEACHER:** Let's look at another way the Bible changes the world. Who wants to pull out the **third symbol**? *(Child pull out "10 Commandments" symbol, show it to the class and hold on to it.)*

**TEACHER:** Do you remember how we summarized the **10 Commandments** into two categories? What are they? *(Let the children respond.)*

Yes, it's loving God and loving others. God gave the 10 Commandments as a set of laws to help people know what is **right** and **wrong**, what is **good** and **bad**. They help us create a good and safe place to live.

*(Show picture of Israel slaves in Egypt)* In many nations throughout history and even today, many leaders are cruel, misuse their power over the people, and steal from them. But the Bible teaches that leaders cannot do what they want, they also should follow God's law. They should rule with fairness and justice and protect the weak and the poor. *(Point to Servant King symbol on storyboard.)* Jesus was the Servant King and he taught that those who want to be great must serve others.

*(Show picture of police)* The Bible has inspired many nations to have good laws and good government, good police, and good courts because God cares about righteousness and **JUSTICE** for all.

Let's place another green circle on the storyboard to remind us of this.

**ACTION:** *Child/children place a green circle/circles on grey area of storyboard. Then the child with the "10 commandments" symbol places it down on top of the green circle and the teacher places the word "Justice" next to it.*

**TEACHER:** The idea of **justice for all** comes from the Bible, and good laws are based on God's laws. This green circle reminds us that good laws, justice, and safety develop in countries **when** people follow the Bible.

*(Point to green circles.)* We are beginning to see how the Bible has inspired people to spread God's Kingdom in the world and make it a better place. Let's read them together: "Education", "Equality", "Justice" ...for **ALL**.

But there is more! Let's go back to our Bible and pull out one more idea.

**TEACHER:** Who wants to pull out the **fourth symbol**? *(Child pull out "Compassion" symbol, show it to the class and hold on to it.)*

Who can recall the story of the Good Samaritan that teaches us about **compassion**? *(Have the children retell the story.)*

**TEACHER:** Yes, Jesus told the story of a kind person, a Samaritan, who took care of an injured man. The Bible teaches us that God is full of compassion, and it also teaches **us** to be full of compassion towards others who are in need. That has inspired the development of **HEALTHCARE**, good doctors, medicines, and hospitals.

*(Show picture of hospital)* In fact, hospitals were built all over the world by people who were following Jesus and obeying the Bible's commands to care for those in need.

Let's place a green circle on the storyboard for the people all through the ages who were building hospitals and caring for the sick and the injured.

**ACTION:** *Child/children place a green circle/circles on grey area of storyboard. Then the child with the "compassion" symbol places it down on top of the green circle and the teacher places the word "Healthcare" next to it.*

**TEACHER:** This green circle reminds us that good **healthcare** was developed and spread all over the world mostly by Christians who had a heart of compassion that was shaped by the Bible.

**TEACHER:** *(Point to the green circles.)* Wow, look at all these ideas that came from the Bible that have changed the world so much!

But it wasn't just **ideas** that changed the world. It was the Holy Spirit that worked through the Bible to **change people's hearts!** When people started reading the Bible, they learned that their sins could be forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection *(point to cross)* and that through the power of the Holy Spirit *(point to Fruit of the Spirit)* their hearts could be changed to become more **like** Jesus. **Their changed heart is what enabled them to take action to change the world to be a better place.**

The Bible is a wonderful gift from God! Our memory verse today says: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Let's put this light around the Bible on our storyboard *(put light symbol under the Bible symbol)*, to remind us that the Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It teaches us the best way to live, and it shows us the way to Jesus, who is the Light of the World *(point to Light of the World symbol)*.

### **Life Application Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the Bible. It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Lord, when we read the Bible, and love and follow Jesus, then our hearts are changed. Only then can we truly change the world to be a better place. Help us to love and read the Bible every day. Amen.

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this lesson tell us about God?** (He gave us the wonderful gift of the Bible that is a light to our path and shows us the best way to live.)
- What was the one thing that made the biggest difference in changing the world to the way it is today? (People reading the Bible and loving and following Jesus.)
- What are some of the ways the Bible has inspired people to change the world to be a better place? (Education, Equality, Justice, Healthcare)
- What are some of the reasons why Christians worked for education for all? (So they could read the Bible and know God's ways. To help people out of poverty)
- What are some of the reasons why Christians worked for equality for all? (Because the Bible teaches that all people are made in God's image and are equally valued and loved by God.)
- What are some of the reasons why Christians worked for justice for all? (Because God gave us his good laws, the 10 commandments; God cares about righteousness and justice; the Bible teaches that leaders must also follow God's law and serve those they lead just like Jesus did.)
- What are some of the reasons why Christians worked for healthcare for all? (Because the Bible teaches that God is full of compassion and wants us to be like him.)
- Why is the Bible an important book? (It is a light to our path. It shows us how to follow Jesus and become more like him. It shows us the best way to live.)
- There are two things we need to do to truly change the world to be a better place. Do you remember what they are? (1. Read the Bible and 2. love and follow Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.)
- Do you have a Bible at home? Do you read it?

## 5 | Response Activities

### **Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement**

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### **Optional activities**

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

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(Psalm 119:105)