



Children's Sermon

This is based on a portion of the sermon written by Barbara Essex.

Constructed to be used in your own words, or to be followed as a script, this children's moment focuses on a particular person or persons in the congregation who shine their light into the world. The script and design may be adjusted to fit your virtual or hybrid worship context.

Theme

One Great Hour of Sharing reminds us that we are all to “be the light” through our actions in the world. There are many people who are examples of God's light and generosity through the way they live their lives. Sometimes, we just need to think about them in new ways.

Materials needed

You will not need any materials for this children's sermon except for an affirming listening ear, eager to engage children's ideas!

Script Suggestion

I want to ask you a very serious question: Have you ever failed at something?

Give time for responses.

Most of us don't like to fail, do we? If we are going to do something, we like to be a success.

Well, guess what. In Matthew 5, Jesus tells us there is something that we cannot fail at. Let me share it with you—

14-16 “Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. (The Message)



Children's Sermon (Continued)

14 You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven. (CEB)

Jesus says, YOU are the light of the world. And that you are to let your light shine before people. Being light is something we really can't fail at. But, you know what? Sometimes we can struggle a little.

We want to shine our light brightly, but maybe sometimes we are mean to another person or we don't help when we are asked to by our parents.

We can share our light when we help others, share an encouraging word, or provide assistance through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. We can be the light when we tutor students after school; coach a youth soccer team; make a casserole for a family who loses a loved one; pick up trash around your neighborhood; or make blankets for the unsheltered. There are SO MANY things we can do, right?

But you know what we need in our lives? We need examples that we can follow.

Here, it is appropriate to tell a story about a person in your congregation (or more than one person) who regularly shines their light brightly into the world. Alternatively, you can tell the story of Orfelina, feature on the One Great Hour of Sharing bulletin insert. You could even show her picture.

You have a chance to be the light! You can participate in today's service by giving a special offering to One Great Hour of Sharing. By doing that, you can shine your light throughout the world.

You can share any further details about the offering or other community details.



Children's Sermon (Continued)

Can we pray a blessing together?

Very good! Let's pray:

You can pray extemporaneously or use this prayer:

Dear God, thank you for loving us so much and showing us how we can love others by being a light in the world. By offering a gift today to the special offering or doing something good for another person, we shine as Jesus wanted us to. We can love those we will never even meet, sharing light with them through our gifts. With thankful hearts, we pray. Amen.

