



## Youth Activity – Find the Light

### **Overview and Instructions**

Devoting about 20 minutes to each segment will result in a 60-minute class. You could adjust the Divine Game of Pinzatski for a longer youth session.

### **Opening Activity – Just a Glimpse**

You will need the following supplies: two small Lego sets for each group you have.

### **Instructions**

Before the class begins, the adult leader of the activity builds a small structure with the Legos and conceals it from the group. Then, the whole youth group works together to recreate the structure.

Alternatively, you can even have two groups working on the project if your group is large enough.

1. When the session begins, one member comes up to look at the block structure for 30 seconds. They try to memorize it before returning to their group.
2. After they return to the group, they have 30 seconds to instruct them about how to build an exact replica of the completed structure using their own set of Legos. The team cannot start to build until he/she has finished their instructions. Once instructions are given and they are building, the first member can no longer say anything.
3. The group then gets 1 minute to attempt to recreate the structure.
4. After 1 minute of building, another group member can come up for “just a glimpse.” They then get 30 seconds to look at the structure before returning to the group to explain for 30 seconds and then the group continues to try to recreate the structure.
5. The game continues until the group completes the structure as best they can or, alternatively, you can designate a time for the game.



## Youth Activity – Find the Light (Continued)

### Discuss

After the groups have built the structures, ask some of these questions (or some of your own):

- What was difficult about the game?
- What was easy?

When the structure was hidden it was more difficult to make. Then only certain people could see it. They were the ones who were providing “light” to the group.

- How much easier was it as more and more people were sharing the “light” (information) with the group?

### Connecting to Scripture

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds us that we are the light of the world. Eugene Peterson’s *The Message* paraphrase says it like this:

*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 One Great Hour of Sharing focus story this year is about Orfelina (pictured on the poster and bulletin insert), who works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is exhausting: Checking on local farmers' harvests. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn’t just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets.



## Youth Activity – Find the Light (Continued)

### Discuss

- Orfelina is just one person, but she brings God’s light to situations through her education and advocacy. Can you think of ways you can bring God’s light in those same ways? What other ways can you think of?
- Have you ever “hid” your light from others? Why do you think you did that? Share some examples if you are comfortable.
- When we are open to others by sharing our light, they may find their own path to also share. Re-read the scripture above. What spiritual practices can you think of which help us remain “open” to sharing our light?

### Additional Optional Activity: The Divine Game of Pinzatski

Arthur and Ellen Pinzatski developed this fantastic game many years ago, while on their yearly camping trip to a beautiful lake. The original game consists of choosing a natural object and then describing to the best of your ability what characteristic of God is revealed. For example, a campfire might illustrate the purity of God, for God uses fire to burn what is holy, such as a sacrifice, but he also uses fire to burn up what is unholy in our lives.

What might God be saying to us through cloud formations or a hummingbird, a flower or moss on a rock?

As an adaption of this game for One Great Hour of Sharing, you are being asked to choose a natural object and to describe how it shines light through it. For example, a campfire (as described above) gives off light to illuminate the darkness or could be used to cook food for hungry people.



## Youth Activity – Find the Light (Continued)

There are two options for this game. First, you can simply mention an item and ask how this might shine the light of God’s love through it.

Alternatively, you can send the youth out (individually or in groups) to look around the church and in the nearby area (ensuring safety of all involved) to take digital pictures of objects they see. When they return at the appointed time, they would show their images and explain how they shine the brightness of God’s love and grace through them.

After the game, ask them to discuss:

- How did you pick your objects? Did you have certain criteria?
- What would it be like if God kept the light (hid it) from shining from this object?

