

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But suppose the salt loses its saltiness. How can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything. It will be thrown out.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in front of others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- Read verses 13-16. Go back and read verse 13. Have kids taste a small amount of salt on their finger. Talk about the strong taste of salt.

- Salt had two purposes in Bible times – (1) to preserve and (2) to flavor food. A home in Bible times would have had a special bowl just for salt. Since there were no freezers, salt was used to help keep food fresh. Salt lowers the freezing point of water. When it is icy outside, you'll often see special trucks sprinkling salt on the roads. This salt makes the ice melt so that it is no longer dangerous on which to drive. *Salt that has lost its flavor is no longer effective as a preservative.*

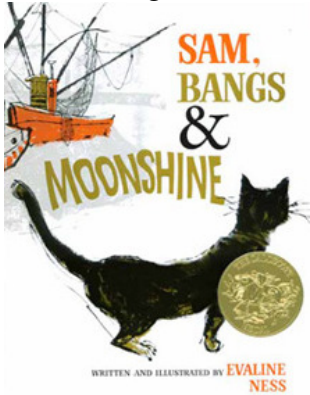
- Simple experiment: Talk about how salt is used in icy road conditions. Get two small bowls of ice. Sprinkle salt in one bowl of ice. Add no salt in the second bowl of ice. Based on their knowledge of how salt is used on an icy road, have them make predictions about which bowl of ice will melt fastest. Periodically check on the ice. Kids will see the salted ice melt considerably faster. See page one for lab notes.

- The second purpose of salt in Bible times and today is to enhance the flavor of food. Talk about foods that the kids commonly eat, such as French fries or chips. Do they taste better with or without salt? Make a list of foods that taste better after salt is added.

- How can we be flavorful (“salty”) for the glory of God to the world around us?

- Read verse 14. Talk about lighthouses. Where are they built? What are they used for? Think about a town that is similarly built on a hill. Sketch two quick pictures on page two to show light filling the area around the town built on a hill. Have kids use a yellow marker or yellow paint to fill in the light.

- Sam, Bangs, and Moonshine could be read or listened to here.



A read-aloud version is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LG5TuWvZtcM>

- A home in Bible times would have several olive oil lamps since there was no electricity. Lamps were very important in giving light to the house. Give each child a book. Go into a dark room with the book(s), a flashlight or flicker candle, and a bowl. Have kids look at the books with the flashlight exposed and with the flashlight covered by the bowl. *The flashlight is without purpose if it is covered by a bowl. In much the same way, a follower of Christ loses his or her purpose if he or she covers the light God has given him or her.* How can we keep our light exposed? As a family, how can we be the town built on the hill?

How can I shine brightly? Discuss each point and read each Bible story to illustrate the point. This is where the majority of the lesson will be spent. How are the characters shining or not shining brightly for God?

- By pleasing God and not man

Galatians 1:10

1 Thes 2:4

*****Acts 5:17-41 (persecution of the apostles)

- By speaking in ways that are right and true

*****Acts 5:1-11 (example of *not* speaking what is true)

- By being patient

*****Luke 2:25-38 (Simeon and Anna awaiting for the promised Messiah)

- By praising the name of God

*****Acts 16:25 (Paul and Silas praising God in spite of and because of their affliction in prison)

- By praying

*****1 Kings 3:5-14 (Solomon's prayer for wisdom)

*****Luke 18:9-14 (the tax collector's prayer)

- By forgiving

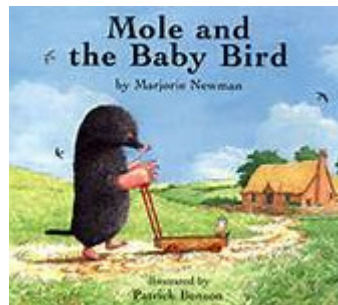
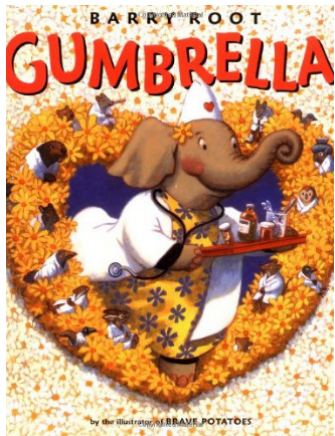
*****Luke 23:34 (Christ's ultimate prayer of forgiveness on the cross)

- Sing "This Little Light of Mine."

- Learn sign language for verse 16:

"Let your light shine (flicker motion with both hands) in front of others (with palms facing down, make circular motions with hands) that they may see (point to both eyes with one hand) your good deeds (left hand facing palm up, right hand on top of left hand with right palm also facing up) and praise (raise hands up and clap) your Father (make sign for "God") in heaven (make "stairsteps" by putting one hand over the other over and over again)."

Read one or both of these books and discuss how the main character did or did not shine brightly.



Possible crafts:

