



# In the Light!

**THEME:** Christmas

**BIBLE STORY:** Jesus Gives A Blind Man His Sight (*John 9:1-42*)

## MATERIALS NEEDED

<p><b>OPENING GAME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One light-colored winter hat</li><li>• One dark-colored winter hat</li></ul>	<p><b>CRAFT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One sheet of red, green, white or yellow construction paper per person</li><li>• One pair of scissors per person</li><li>• A roll of tape, one per family</li><li>• A bottle of liquid glue, one per family</li><li>• A ruler, one per family</li><li>• A pencil, one per person</li><li>• Things to decorate the lanterns. Choose from: gift wrap paper, patterned tape, ribbons, sequins, stickers, glitter glue, felt shapes, etc.</li></ul>
<p><b>GAMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A stack of recycled newspapers (enough to make about 50 crumpled paper “snowballs”)</li></ul>	

## 90-MINUTE SESSION OUTLINE

- [Introduction and Opening Game](#) (10 minutes)
- [Family Craft](#) (30 minutes)
- [Games](#) (20 minutes)
- [Devotional Thought](#) (10 minutes)
- [Family Discussion](#) (15 minutes)
- [Closing Prayer and Dismissal](#) (5 minutes)

## Introduction and Opening Game

(10 MINUTES)

### Introduction

Welcome to family fun night! We are so glad you're here. Our goals are to help your family have fun together and to learn about God's love and his word.

Tonight, our theme is about being "In The Light." Jesus brings us into the light so that we might not be in the dark (this phrase means "unaware" or "uninformed") about who God is and what he is like. That is why God came to dwell among us, so we might see him and know him!

Believe it or not, we're not going to look at your typical Christmas Bible story. The story we're going to explore today is written in the Bible in the Book of John. Let's read it now.

*Read John 9:1-42.*

That's an amazing story, and we'll have a chance to come back to it later, but right now let's play a game of Tag!

### Opening Game: Light and Dark Tag

**Object:** Families will see that light always overcomes the darkness!

**Setup:** Choose one child or adult to be the "Light" and wear the light colored hat. Choose another person to be the "Darkness" and wear a dark-colored hat.

**Instructions:** On your GO signal, families will run from the "Light" and the "Darkness," trying to avoid being tagged. Those who are tagged by the "Light" may help the "Light" tag others. Students tagged by the "Dark" must freeze in place until tagged by the "Light." Play until everyone has been touched by the "Light."

## Crafts

(30 MINUTES)

### Christmas Paper Lanterns

**Preparation:**

Cover tables with newspaper, butcher paper or another covering to protect the surface.

Give each person a sheet of construction paper.

**Instructions:**

1. With the sheet of construction paper, cut a 1-inch wide strip off of one short side. Set this aside for the handle.
2. Fold the paper in half, lengthwise.
3. Draw a horizontal line one inch from the long edge opposite the fold with a pencil.
4. Cut the first slit: starting from the folded edge, cut a straight line about an inch from one short edge, all the way up to the horizontal line.
5. Continue to cut more straight lines about 1-inch apart until you reach the opposite short edge of the paper. Remember that the horizontal line marks the point where you stop cutting each straight line.
6. Unfold the paper.
7. Erase the pencil marks.
8. Decorate the top and bottom edge (without the slits) with the decorations of choice:
9. Transform the paper into a lantern by forming it into a tube shape. Overlap the long edges at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. Tape at the top and bottom of the overlap.
10. Glue on the handle on the inside of the lantern's top edge.

## Games

(20 MINUTES)

### The Great Snowball Fight

**Object:** To be the team with the least amount of paper “snowballs” on their side.

**Setup:** Divide families into two teams onto two sides of the room. Ask the families to help you roll up about 50 paper snowballs using recycled newspaper. Place the “snowballs” in the center and have each team line up either on the wall or a baseline that you create.

**Instructions:** On your GO signal, both teams can run to grab the “snowballs” and throw them on the opposing team’s side. Players continue to throw the paper snowballs on the other side until the leader yells,

“STOP.” Everyone should freeze and count up how many snowballs are remaining on their team’s side. The team that has the least amount on their side wins the round.

### Christmas Telephone Charades

**Object:** To be the team that correctly passes a key word or phrase without speaking.

**Setup:** Divide families into two separate lines, forming two teams. Each team should stand with everyone facing in one direction, so that each team member cannot see the person behind them.

**Instructions:** The leader will tap the person at the back of each line on the shoulder (player one) and will whisper to them a key word or phrase that they must act out. Player one will tap player two on the shoulder signaling them to turn around. Player one acts out the word or phrase without speaking. Player two then signals player three to turn around, and player two proceeds to act out the word or phrase. This continues until the last player has seen the word or phrase acted out. The last player must guess the original word or phrase. The team that most accurately guesses the word or phrase wins!

## Devotional Thought

(10 MINUTES)

**Are you afraid of the dark? Why or why not? Turn and talk about this with your family.**

Allow each family to talk amongst themselves.

**Have you ever heard someone say that they were “kept in the dark” about something? When someone says this it means they don’t know about something that other people know.**

**Without Jesus, we are kept in the dark about who God is and what he is truly like.**

**Let’s engage with the Bible story we read at the beginning. This time, I will need your help!**

Assign the following characters from the story:

- Disciple
- Jesus
- Neighbor 1

- Neighbor 2
- Blind Man
- Pharisee
- Parent

You will also need someone to play the part of the Narrator. Invite the rest of the participants to point to their EYES every time the word “see(n)” or “sight” is mentioned.

Narrator: **As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth.**

Disciples: **Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?**

Jesus: **Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**

Narrator: **After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes.**

Jesus: **Go, and wash in the Pool of Siloam.**

Narrator: **So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.**

Neighbor 1: **Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?**

Neighbor 2: **No, he only looks like him.**

Blind Man: **I am the man.**

Neighbor 1: **How then were your eyes opened?**

Blind Man: **The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.**

Neighbor 2: **Where is this man?**

Blind Man: **I don’t know.**

Narrator: **They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.**

Pharisee: **How did you receive your sight?**

Blind Man: **He put mud on my eyes and I washed, and now I see!**

Pharisee: **This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.**

Narrator: **Then they turned again to the blind man.**

Pharisee: **What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.**

Blind Man: **He is a prophet.**

Narrator: **They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents.**

Pharisee: **Is this your son? Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?**

Parent: **We know he is our son and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.**

Narrator: **A second time they summoned the man who had been blind.**

Pharisee: **Give glory to God by telling the truth. We know this man is a sinner.**

Blind Man: **Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.**

Pharisee: **You were sinful at birth; how dare you lecture us!**

Narrator: **Then they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out so he went and found him.**

Jesus: **Do you believe in the Son of Man?**

Blind Man: **Who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him.**

Jesus: **You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.**

Blind Man: **Lord, I believe.**

Narrator: **And the Blind Man worshiped Jesus.**

**What an interesting story! What are some things you notice about Jesus in this story?**

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

**What are some things you notice about the blind man in this story?**

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

**What are some things you notice about the Pharisees in this story?**

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

**I also noticed four big things about the characters in this story:**

- 1. The disciples supposed that the blind man was born blind because he was a sinner, but Jesus said that was not true. We can be just like the disciples, assuming that we know the truth about something when we do not.**
- 2. The Pharisees saw Jesus as a sinner. Because they saw Jesus in this way, they refused to believe that the man could receive his sight from such a man.**
- 3. The blind man not only received his physical sight, but he got to see Jesus in a way the Pharisees could not: he saw Jesus as the Son of God!**
- 4. Jesus restored the blind man's eyesight, but he also helped the blind man see what the Pharisees could not: that he was not a sinner, but the Son of God!**

**Here's what I'd like us to remember from this story.**

**Let's pray. Lord Jesus, you are truly the Son of God. Thank you that you came into the world to give us eyes to see who God is and what God is really like. We no longer have to be in the dark about who you are! Help us to know you more as we read your words in the Bible and connect with you. Amen.**

## Family Discussion

(15 MINUTES)

Distribute the family discussion guide and give the families time to discuss the questions there together.

## Closing Prayer and Dismissal

(5 MINUTES)

Thank everyone for coming. Make any announcements about future family fun nights or other events at your church. Let the families know you love them and want to serve them. If anyone needs prayer, offer to pray for them.

Close the evening in prayer.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Have you ever been left in the dark? How did it make you feel?

Read the story together again, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned to us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."*

*Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing! His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, "He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!" Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath." Others said, "But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?" So there was a deep division of opinion among them. Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, "What's your opinion about this man who healed you?" The man replied, "I think he must be a prophet." The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see...*

*So for a second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner." "I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!" "But what did he do?" they asked. "How did he heal you?" "Look!" the man exclaimed. "I told you once. Didn't you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" Then they cursed him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! We know God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where this man comes from."*

*When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him." "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!" "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.*

*Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind." Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, "Are you saying we're blind?" "If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "But you remain guilty because you claim you can see."*



### To Discuss

- Why did Jesus say the man was born blind? What did the disciples suppose was the cause?
- In this passage, what does Jesus say is the reason he came into the world?
- How did Jesus restore the man's eyesight?
- Who did the Pharisees say Jesus was? Who did Jesus say he was, and who did he say it to?
- Can we see who God truly is and what he is like even if we can't see him with our physical eyes? How?
- Thinking back to today's story, why do we celebrate Christmas with candles and Christmas lights?