



LET'S GLOW

WEEK 2

BIBLE STORY

The Early Church - Brighter Together

Acts 2:42-47

TODAY'S TAKE AWAY

We glow brighter together.

SERIES VERSE

'While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'

(John 9:5 NIV)

WEEKLY VERSE

'And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.'

(Hebrews 10:25 NLT)



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SKIT

SKIT INFORMATION

The skits will require two people. One person will play themselves (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

CHARACTER BIO

The character's name is Dr. Farfelbart. This skit is written with a male in mind, but feel free to use a female for this character if desired. Dr. Farfelbart is a mad scientist who is always coming up with a "new" invention. He is very scared of children and many other odd things, but is learning to overcome those fears. Dr. Farfelbart can speak with a Russian accent if desired. He can be dressed in a lab coat, big black gloves, black boots, goggles and a crazy wig. Optional: create a laboratory for Dr. Farfelbart on your stage or at the front of your room using a desk/table, test tubes filled with colored water, a plasma ball, etc.

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SKIT

- Leader: *Walks out.* How is everyone doing today? *Allow kids to respond.* I guess we may see that Dr. Barfelfart again today...
- Dr. Farfelbart: *Barges into the room quickly.* It's Dr. Farfelbart! Of course, I'm back!
- Leader: Oh yeah. Sorry about that. Why exactly did you come back to see us?
- Dr. Farfelbart: Haven't you noticed my temporary laboratory I set up?
- Leader: *Turns around to look at it.* Oh! Is this all your junk cluttering up our kid's room?
- Dr. Farfelbart: Junk? Clutter? Excuse you! This is high-quality, top of the line, scientific equipment you are talking about.
- Leader: Ok... why is it here? Don't you have a laboratory somewhere else, anywhere else?
- Dr. Farfelbart: Well, I did, but that's a story for another day... Anyways, I'm so excited to share with you that I decided to get together with some other scientists and inventors to collaborate on a super top-secret invention.
- Leader: That does sound pretty cool! Can you tell us more about it?
- Dr. Farfelbart: NO!!!! What part of top-secret don't you understand?
- Leader: Ok, ok. You don't have to tell us. I am proud of you for working with other inventors. I always say we glow brighter together!
- Dr. Farfelbart: Some of my inventor friends do glow brighter than me, but it's because they keep testing out their glow in the dark inventions on themselves... I've already said too much!

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Leader: I didn't mean "glow" literally, but that probably isn't good. They might need to get that checked out.

Dr. Farfelbart: What do you mean?

Leader: It's just a fun way of saying that we are better when we work together, especially as the Church.

Dr. Farfelbart: That's true! I have a top-secret meeting to go to about our top-secret invention in a couple minutes that I simply can't be late for! *Rushes out of the room.*

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GAME: GLOW CHAIN

SUPPLIES

- Glow sticks and connectors

SETUP

- No setup is required.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Everyone can play this game.
2. Divide the group into two teams and give each team a bunch of glow sticks and connectors.
3. Give the teams two minutes to create a glow chain by forming rings with the sticks and then connecting the rings.
4. Signal the teams to stop working at the end of two minutes.
5. Measure the length of the chains. Team with the longest chain wins.

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MESSAGE

SUPPLIES

- A Bible in your preferred version (This week uses NLT.)
- Four pieces of poster board (Write one of these actions on each poster board: teaching, fellowship/worship, eating meals, and praying,)
- Cereal and milk or other breakfast food (Optional: Provide enough for everyone.)
- Glow sticks (You need enough for everyone to have one.)

INTRODUCTION

Last week we learned that Peter was willing to step into the spotlight and tell a huge crowd of people about Jesus. Because of his boldness in sharing the gospel, around 3,000 people became believers! Can you imagine if our church grew by 3,000 people in one day? That's exactly what happened and that was just the beginning! They didn't want to see people trust Jesus and then go back to living their lives the way they were before. Being a follower of Jesus is not just a decision you make one day; it's a decision to follow Jesus for the rest of your life.

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BIBLE STORY

Today we will discover what happened to the apostles and new believers in Acts 2:42-47.

Allow the kids time to turn to Acts 2:42-47.

Let's read it together. "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."

Three thousand new believers decided to form their own community or church just like new churches are started today! ***If you know how your church started, you could briefly share that here.***

I need four volunteers to come up front and help me. ***Choose four kids to join you and hand them the poster board signs.*** There are four specific actions we see the believers doing in this passage of Scripture.

The first thing they devoted themselves to was the apostles' teaching. Devoted means that they cared about these things and wanted these things to be part of their church. ***Have the first kid turn their sign around.*** They wanted to learn more about the Scriptures and this Jesus they had heard so much about. How do we do this today in our church? ***Allow kids to respond.*** We are doing it right now!

The second thing they devoted themselves to was fellowship and worship. ***Have the second kid turn their sign around.*** They would hang out and worship together. How do we do this today in our church? ***Allow kids to respond.*** We come to church on Sundays and hang out with other people who love and worship God.

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The third thing they devoted themselves to was eating together. ***Have the third kid turn their sign around.*** Everything is better when food is involved. ***Hold up breakfast food.*** How do we do this in our church? ***Allow kids to respond.*** We do this at small groups and special events. Optional: we will share a meal together during small groups today, just like they did in the early church.

The last thing they devoted themselves to was prayer. ***Have the fourth kid turn their sign around.*** You should talk to God by yourself during the week, but there's something special about praying with our friends. How do we do this at our church? ***Allow kids to respond.*** We pray together during small groups and as a large group every week. This morning, we will do all four of the things that the early church did.

LIFE APPLICATION/OBJECT LESSON

The early church knew that they were better together and so are we! We need to spend personal time praying and studying God's Word every day, but we also need to gather together as the Church.

Let's say that this glow stick represents just me. ***Pull out glow stick and turn out the lights.*** I am a Christian and I love Jesus, but I am all by myself. I don't have a church family or any Christian friends to spend time with, talk about God with, or pray with me. Now, check out what happens when I find a church. ***Pass out glow sticks to all of the kids and have them crack them to make them glow.*** When I find a church family, I begin to make friends who also know Jesus. We can pray together, worship God together, and even hang out and share a meal together. When we are together we glow much brighter. When other people see what we have, they will want to join us. That's our goal as Christians! We read in verse 47, "each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." Every day someone new decided to follow Jesus and join their church. How cool would that be? Let's pray and ask God to make us a church that glows so brightly that everyone will want to be part of it.

Offer a prayer of salvation for any kids who have not accepted Jesus into their lives.

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of our current series?
Answer: Let's Glow
2. Name one of the four things the early church devoted themselves to?
Answer: Apostles' teaching, fellowship, eating meals, and prayer
3. What is one thing we do together as a church to glow brighter?
Answer: Answers vary
4. What is Today's Takeaway?
Answer: We glow brighter together.
5. Where is our series verse found in the Bible?
Answer: John 9:5

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Optional: Have the small groups share a meal together as they discuss these questions.

1. Do you think it is easier to be a Christian when you have other Christian friends? Why?
2. Have you ever been the only Christian in a group, class, or any other situation? How did you feel?
3. What is one way we could support each other as the church?
4. How can we glow brighter together to attract other people to want to know God and be a part of the church?
5. Optional: Look up these verses and discuss them as a group.
Hebrews 10:25, Matthew 18:20, and 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

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GAME: GLOW CREATIONS

SUPPLIES

- Glow sticks and connectors (20 per small group)

SETUP

- No setup is required for this game.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Provide each group with 20 glow sticks and connectors.
2. Tell the kids they have five minutes to work together to create anything they want out of the glow sticks and connectors.
3. Optional: Play this game in the dark for even more glow fun.