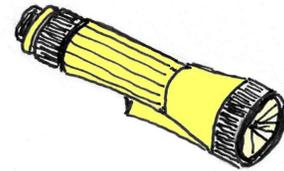


BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED

Theme: Jesus is the light of the world

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2, John 8:12

Props: A flashlight without batteries, sunglasses
(silly ones, if available)



Let me ask you something: Have you ever tried to walk around in the dark? I mean when it's so dark you can't see a thing and you keep bumping into things and maybe even trip over something? Pretty scary, huh?

It's hard to walk in the dark. So if you're going to walk around in the dark you need...*(Show flashlight.)*...a light.

And you know what? The Bible even says so! It's right here in Isaiah 9: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given."

Who do you think that was? Jesus. In fact over here in John 8 Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Just as a flashlight lights our way in the dark, Jesus lights our way through life and he lights the way to God, the Father. A flashlight helps to keep us from stumbling over things in the dark, and Jesus helps to keep us from stumbling over problems in life.

By the way, this is my favorite flashlight. You know why? Because it's so bright. In fact, it's so bright that whenever I turn it on I have to put on my sunglasses...*(Put on sunglasses.)* Let me show you how bright it is...1, 2, 3...*(Act surprised when light doesn't come on.)* What? Oh! *(Tap flashlight to make it work.)* Let's try again...*(Still doesn't work.)* Well, let's see what's going on. *(Unscrew flashlight.)* No wonder! There aren't any batteries!

Well I guess you can't always depend on a flashlight, can you? But you can always depend on Jesus Christ to light our way through life and to light the way to the Father because Jesus is the light of the world.

That's something we should pray about: Father in Heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to be the light of the world. We pray that he will always light our way through life and light the way to you. We thank you in his holy name. Amen.

Song: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"