



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Shine

Children's Story

Year B, Proper 15

Title: Shine!
Author: Deborah Froese
Church: First Mennonite Church Winnipeg, MB
Text: John 6:51-58
Theme: We can live like Jesus because he lives in us.
Needed: Vocalist(s) to lead singing of "This Little Light of Mine", or the CD: Songs to Live By, track 5, or a singing storyteller!, a small flashlight, and an empty glass jar large enough to hold the flashlight.

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder if people can see the light of Jesus in me.
- I wonder how I can be more like Jesus.
- I wonder what I can do to share the light of Jesus.

Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they gather together for this special part of the worship service. Thank them for coming up front to share this time with the congregation and tell them you appreciate the sparkly light in their eyes. Encourage them to look into each other's eyes to see the sparkle. Explain that our eyes sparkle because we have the light of Jesus shining in us. Help them settle into a comfortable position and an attitude of holy listening by reminding them that worship is a time where we remember God is near, listen to God, and give God our love and thanks. Open your Bible to John 6: 51 and explain that in today's Gospel reading Jesus is explaining how Jesus lives inside of us. There's a song that helps us understand that, too, so today's children's time will begin with the song, This Little Light of Mine.

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Children's Feature:

Do you know the song in HWB 401 This Little Light of Mine? Let's sing it together. (Sing all three verses.)

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3 times), Let it shine (3 times)
2. Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (3 times), Let it shine (3 times).
3. All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine, (3 times) Let it shine (3 times)

Do you know what the light in that song stands for? The light is Jesus, and Jesus lives in each of us. (Hold out the jar.) Let's say this jar is you. This open jar has lots of space for a flashlight. It can help us think about our lives and how we can be open to the loving light of Jesus. (Turn on flashlight.) And this light helps us think about how the loving light of Jesus can shine in our lives.

(Put the flashlight in the jar.) What do you see when you look at the jar?

The light shines right through the jar. Now, you are not a glass jar, and I am not a glass jar, but the loving light of Jesus can still shine through us. We're not see-through, so how do you think people can see the loving light of Jesus through us? Yes, you are right, when Jesus lives in our hearts, he fills us up with his love and his peace. That helps us think and live in his way. Jesus' loving light becomes part of who we are and the choices we make. When we live this way and keep our lives open to the loving light of Jesus, we get to know Jesus better. The better we get to know Jesus, the brighter the light inside us will shine!

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for living in us and teaching us your ways. Help us to let your light shine through us! Amen.