

**“Shine Jesus’ Light”**  
**by Rev. Frances Savill**  
**Sunday July 23, 2023**

**John 9:1-11**

We had a great VBS week! We had a stellar space adventure. We learned about Jesus who is the light of the world. Our Bible verse on Monday was “Jesus said, I am the light of the world.” That’s from the passage that we read in John 9:5.

Jesus pours good things into our lives every day – we are blessed. God blesses us with families and friends, and the amazing world around us. Every day we thought about things that God has given us that fill us with joy and show us Jesus’ light.

We thought about things in the air that are awesome gifts from God - like fireflies, and eagles, seagulls, and snowflakes, rainbows and sunrises, beautiful butterflies, and amazing sunsets. These amazing and wonderful things point to a good and great God who loves us.

On Friday, our focus for the day was:

***When people need help... shine Jesus’ light.***

And I thought about our passage how Jesus healed the man born blind.

Lots of people are helpful, but sometimes they are blind, like the Pharisees. The Pharisees weren’t blind physically, but they were blind to what God was doing. The Pharisees saw Jesus’ miracles and care for people, and they criticized Jesus because he healed people on the Sabbath or made friends with tax collectors and sinners like Zacchaeus.

Lots of people are helpful, but sometimes they don’t understand the situation. At the beginning of the passage the disciples ask Jesus who is to blame for the man’s blindness, was it the man or his parents who sinned. The disciples’ thought someone must have done something wrong, and blindness was God’s punishment.

Jesus made it clear that God doesn’t operate like that. Jesus said that this man was going to bring glory to God and God’s work was going to be seen in the man.

Lots of people are helpful, but sometimes there isn’t much they can do... I can’t heal someone. But I can show Jesus’ love and shine Jesus’ light, and pray, knowing that God hears our prayers and loves the people we are concerned about.

Lots of people are helpful, but sometimes we run out of patience, or love, and just can't help. But Jesus' doesn't run out of patience, and He helps us to help others. Jesus' love never fails, it never gives up, it always endures.

And when we pray and ask Jesus for help to be more patient, and more understanding, Jesus helps us so we can help others. Jesus is the light that opens eyes, and brings healing, and brings new life to people.

On Wednesday, we talked about how when good things happen:  
**"Shine Jesus' light".**

The man who was born blind was given his sight. He praised and thanked God, but no one else did. When good things happen... **shine Jesus' light.**

In this scripture reading we see how powerful Jesus is, we see how compassionate Jesus is, we see God's love in action through Jesus.

Can you imagine being blind all your life, and suddenly you could see!

The man born blind shone Jesus' light, telling everyone first that Jesus really did the miracle, that Jesus must be a prophet, or someone great because God listened to Jesus' prayer.

This miracle opened the eyes of the blindman, but it was supposed to open the eyes of everyone to see that Jesus was the anointed one sent by God, that Jesus had the power and love of God working through him.

This week we saw again and again how Jesus is the light of the world, who fills our lives with joy, bringing hope and help to us. We also saw how Jesus' light is reflected in each other as we helped each other, as we sang together, as we made new friends, as we played games together and learned about Jesus.

We were challenged... shine Jesus' light.

When life feels dark... shine Jesus' light.

When people don't get along... shine Jesus' light.

When things good things happen... shine Jesus' light.

When people are sad... shine Jesus' light!

**Let us pray:** Amazing, stellar God, thank you for this great week that we had together. Thank you for new friends and all the ways we learned to shine Jesus' light. Thank you that Jesus is the light, the hope, the joy, the Saviour, the healer of this world, and so much more. Help us to live in Jesus' light and to shine that light every day. Amen.