

# Shine Bright

## **PURPOSE:**

To re-connect Mpact Girls Clubs in person for a fun time of inspiration.

(This plan could also be used for backyard or neighborhood kids' gatherings.)

**Target Audience:** Elementary Age Girls (K-5th grade)

## **Social Distancing Concerns:**

- Depending on the size of your Girls Ministry, you may want to host the event in several sessions by club, or you may combine clubs together. Please observe the current state recommendations for outdoor gatherings.
- Host the event outdoors. Provide canopy shade through portable tents, etc. or covered picnic areas.
- Plan for spaced seating on a grassy area or chairs spaced apart. Use towels or tape to mark seating on the grass. Crafts can be completed at tables with appropriate spacing.
- Refrain from hugging, holding hands, or doing activities that require physical touch.
- Provide hand sanitizer and thoroughly clean high touch areas before and after the event.
- Ask each participant to bring her own water bottle with her name on it. Have some prepackaged bottles of water and a sharpie available for girls who forget to bring it.

## **Time of Day:**

- Allow 2-3 hours for the event. With the "Firefly" theme, an evening event would be ideal so as to observe fireflies, if in season. Mornings or afternoon would also work.

## Theme Verse:

“...I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

**John 8:12 (NIV)**

## Suggested worship songs:

- Hillsong, *Let Your Light Shine*; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXkxRNEy8XA>
- Hillsong, *Let There Be Light*; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZX4i3Z\\_ZyM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZX4i3Z_ZyM)
- Elevation Worship; *Shine A Light*; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1FhjyX1mk>
- Hillsong Kids; *Light of the World*; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Unmq4vNjrnQ>
- Hillsong Worship; *Mighty to Save*; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVnyBp\\_CudA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVnyBp_CudA)

## Possible Activities:

- Download the Annual Theme 2019 Packet from the NGM site. <https://ngm.ag.org/Topics-Resources/Resources/Annual-Theme> It contains several coloring & activity pages that can be printed. Have small individual crayon or marker packs for each girl. They can be a “take home” goodie.
- If hosting in the evening, provide a small container for each girl. See who can capture the most fireflies. Then, countdown and release them all together to see how much light they produce en masse.

## Craft Ideas:

\$ - Instead of Mother’s Day, use the space to write the memory verse: <https://www.freekidscrafts.com/fingerprint-firefly-mothers-day-card/>

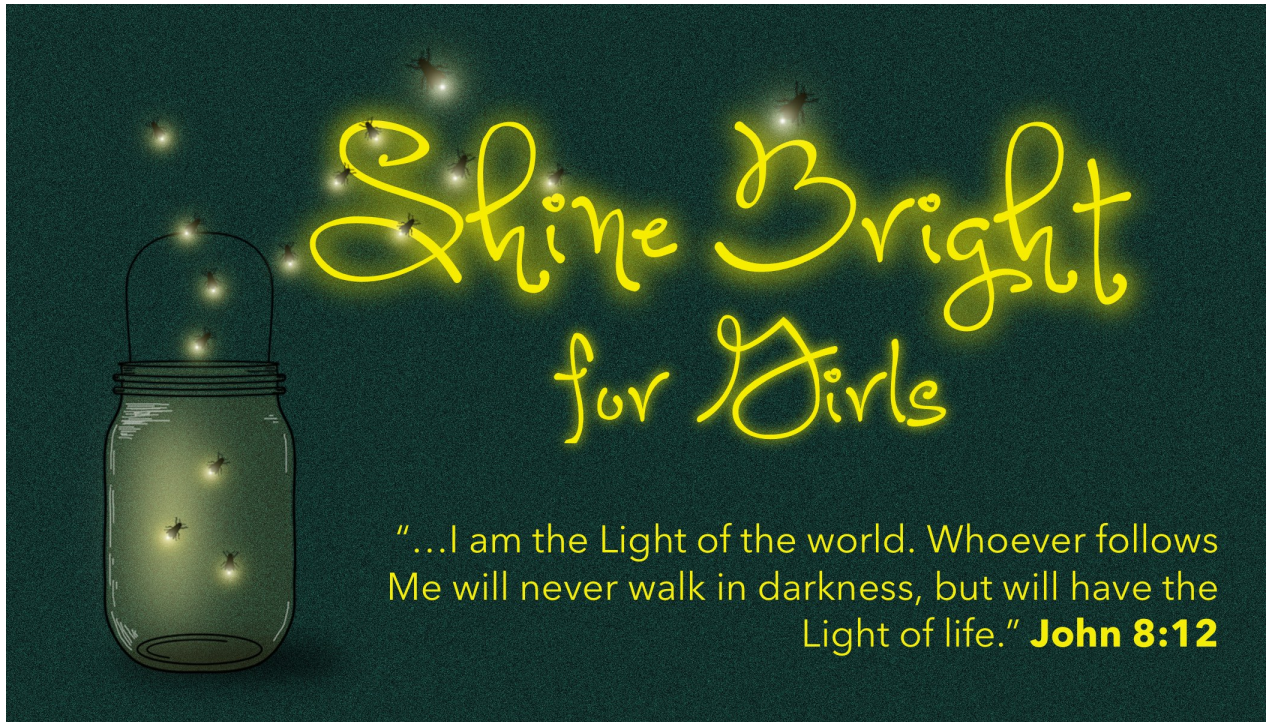
\$\$ - Use the plastic Easter eggs that didn’t get used this Easter: <https://www.woojr.com/fireflies-or-lightning-bug-craft-from-plastic-easter-eggs/>

\$\$\$ - For older girls, a beautiful nightlight: <https://www.diynetwork.com/made-and-remade/make-it/light-up-the-night--firefly-mason-jar-summer-craft>

Also, search firefly kids crafts on the web or Pinterest - there are many great ideas!

**Snacks:**

- Under current circumstances, the safest plan is not to serve snacks and have each girl bring her own water bottle. If a snack is served, it needs to be individually prepackaged such as chips, cheez-its, or cookies.



## **Suggested Schedule:**

(Start time of 6:30 pm used for reference)

6:30 - 6:45 pm	Welcome
	(Have an independent activity for girls to work on during this time.)
	(Assign seating & small groups)
6:45 - 7:00 pm	Worship Time
7:00 - 7:05 pm	Prayer
7:05 - 7:25 pm	Devotional
7:25 - 7:40 pm	Small Group Huddles
	(Discussion questions & Prayer Time)
7:40 - 8:30 pm	Crafts & Activities
8:30 - 8:45 pm	Review - Upbeat worship song
	(Collect fireflies & release if appropriate)
8:45 - 9:00 pm	Parent Pick Up

## Shine Bright Devotional\*\*

Who loves summer? What are some of your favorite things about summer? {allow responses & add your own} It's so much fun that summer days are long, and it doesn't get dark outside until later. One of the coolest things about summer is a very special insect - the firefly or lightning bug. How many of you notice them on summer nights? They are one of a very special group of God's creatures that can produce their own light. There is a big scientific name for it - bioluminescence (bio·lu·mi·nes·cence | \ ,bī-ō-,lū-mə-'ne-s<sup>ə</sup>n(t)s). Through a chemical reaction inside their little bodies, they are able to produce light without an outside source. Think about it - light almost always requires an outside source. We may have a light bulb, but it has to be installed and connected to electricity. Our flashlights don't work without the chemical reactions in batteries. To start a fire, we have to have a spark from a match or a lighter. Fireflies are special, and seeing them makes me amazed at God's handiwork.

We don't have that special chemical like fireflies, but we can still "shine bright." What if you were told to "shine bright," what would you think it meant? Would you go wrap yourself in Christmas lights or paint your clothes with glow-in-the-dark paint? Would you think you needed to be a famous actor, singer, or you tube star so that the whole world would know who you are and think you're talented? No, that's not the kind of light we want to be.

We are to be a light for Jesus! When we ask Jesus to come into our life and to forgive our sins (choices that go against God's Word), we let the light of Jesus into our lives. All the guilty feelings over our past bad choices can go away, just like the darkness goes away when we turn on a light.

When we ask Jesus to be a part of our lives, He changes us from the inside out. As we spend time reading our Bible, praying, and going to church, the Holy Spirit begins to work inside of us. We can see this truth in Romans 8:5 where it says, "Those who live according to the flesh (their own wants and desires) have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." When we are reading God's word and spending time in prayer, our minds begin to focus on what the Spirit wants for us.

Once this happens on the inside of us in our hearts, others around us will see a change in our lives (the outside things that people see.) In the Bible John 8:12 (NIV), Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." So, when you are asked to "shine bright," you are being asked to share the light of Jesus with those around you! His light shows on the outside from the changes he has done on the inside of us. So, like the firefly, we

shine bright from changes that happen on the inside! We can use our words, actions, gifts, and talents to show love and kindness to everyone we meet! People around us will notice that you are God's girl and that you shine bright for Him!

Another neat thing about fireflies is that they use the pattern of their flashing lights to talk to one another. They have some sort of firefly secret code to send out messages. They use it to help identify bugs of the same species. So, by their flashing, they can either draw in others or make others turn away. The way we talk and act can also draw people to the light of Jesus, or without his love, we can say and do things to turn others away. Fireflies can even work together and get their flashing timed to one another. It's like a little firefly flash mob! Just like fireflies, the way we "shine bright" the light of Jesus is a form of communication. We can use our words, actions, gifts, and talents to tell others how wonderful our Jesus. Like our bug friends, when we work together to spread the message of Jesus, then the His light shines stronger. People we meet will see that we are different from other girls. That difference is the light of Jesus shining through us. Let's work together, and share the light of Jesus with those around us!

### **Small Group Discussion Questions:**

- How are we like fireflies?
- What does it mean to "shine bright"?
- How does Jesus get rid of the darkness in people's lives?  
(Use this time to explain the plan of salvation. Ask if any girls want to ask Jesus into their lives, and lead them in the plan of salvation.)
- How can you use your gifts and talents to be a light?
- What happens when we work together as followers of Jesus?
- How can we work together to spread the message of Jesus?

\*\*Adapted from National Girls Ministries 2019 Annual Theme Packet

2019 by Gospel Publishing House, 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, Missouri 65802.