



Supplies

- large coffee filters (1 per child)
- 16-ounce clear plastic cups (2 per child)
- water
- disposable spoons (1 per child)
- rubber bands
- bucket
- dirt and pebbles

Easy Prep

- Gather dirt and pebbles in the buckets. You'll need about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of dirt and pebbles per person. Fill enough buckets so that everyone will be able to get some dirt without creating long lines. Fill 1 cup of water per child.

Tip

- Don't want to gather as many supplies? Have kids do this experiment in their small groups instead of individually.

Filter Dirty Water

Say: **We're learning that God's Word shows us what to do. There's a *lot* in God's Word, so it can be hard to remember all that it shows us to do, but Jesus helped us out by narrowing things down to two simple concepts: Love God and love people. We can use those simple ideas as a way to filter what we say and do. Let's dig in to this more by looking at how a filter works.**

- Have small-group leaders give each person a cup of water, spoon, rubber band, coffee filter, and an empty cup.
- Place the buckets of dirt around the room, and have kids take turns coming to the buckets two or three at a time. They can use their spoons to scoop a few heaping portions of dirt and pebbles into their cups of water, then return to their other supplies.
- Next, have each child place a coffee filter over the top of the empty cup and secure it in place by stretching a rubber band over the filter and mouth of the cup. The filter should dip into the cup instead of being stretched taut.
- Kids can then stir their cups of dirty water, making sure to incorporate the dirt so the water turns murky and dark.
- Then kids can carefully pour the dirty water a little at a time over the filters to observe what happens to the water.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did the filter do to the dirty water?**

Say: **Filters are *semipermeable membranes*. That's a big term that just means liquids can get through but larger particles are held back. So when you poured the dirty water over the filter, the water went through but most of the dirt and pebbles were held back.**

So if we use what Jesus said in Mark 12 as a filter for what we say and do, we could ask ourselves, "Does what I'm about to say or do show love to God and to others?" Filtering our actions through how Jesus tells us to live helps us leave behind mean, unloving choices.

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **What are things we might not do or say anymore if we filter our choices through Mark 12?**

• **What are things we might do more if we use the Mark 12 filter?**

Say: **Living life with a Mark 12 filter can help us narrow down what God's Word shows us to do and makes it much easier to actually do it!**

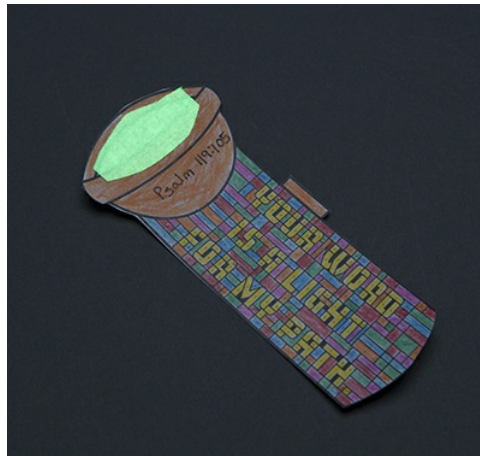


Supplies

- “Flashlight” handout, printed on white card stock (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- colored pencils
- glow-in-the-dark paint or glow-in-the-dark duct tape
- paintbrushes (optional)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Flashlight Bookmark

Show kids the sample craft you made. Have small-group leaders give each child a handout. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make flashlight Bible bookmarks.

- Use the color-by-letter key to color the handle of the flashlight with colored pencils. Make sure you follow the directions for which colors to use where!
- Make the head of the flashlight glow in the dark. You can either cut a circle of glow-in-the-dark duct tape to stick on it or paint it with glow-in-the-dark paint.
- Cut out the flashlight.

Talk About It

Have small groups discuss these questions.

Ask: • **How did the color-by-letter key show you what to do?**

• **How was following those directions like or unlike following the Bible?**

Say: **God's Word shows us what to do**, kind of like the color-by-letter key showed you what to do. **But God's Word is so much better because it helps us know what to do when we have tough choices to make! Your bookmark can remind you that God's Word shows us what to do just like a flashlight shows us where to go on a dark path. Speaking of which...let's test out our flashlights!** Turn off the lights so kids can see their flashlights glow.

Turn on the lights. Encourage kids to take their bookmarks home and put them in their Bibles with the glowing end of the flashlight sticking out; that way the flashlights can charge in the daytime and light up at night!