Devotion

Object: Stained-glass Windows

Bible verse: Matthew 5:16 " In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Lesson: Just as sunlight shines through and illuminates figures in stained- glass windows, we glow beautifully when God's Word shines through us.

Introduction: *Have you ever been in a church with stained glass windows on a sunny day?*

Ask students to describe what it may look like. *Is it beautiful? Colorful? Detailed? What stories do stained-glass windows tell?*

Body: Discuss the time and preparation it takes to make a stained glass window. First you need to decide what design you want to make. Then you choose each color and shape carefully in order to make that design. At first it is just a mess of broken glass, but when you arrange the pieces together, you have a beautiful masterpiece.

Interaction: *How are we like stained glass windows?*

God sees the beautiful plan and design He has for us. We cannot see this plan because sometimes our life is like a big, messy pile of broken glass. We may also feel the pains of broken glass. There may be so many trials we are facing in our lives that we don't think anything good can come from it. However, God looks at each broken piece and He sees art. He sees how each broken piece fit together perfectly. He needs us to be patient, in the same way an artist exercises patience as he is creating his art. We must wait to see and understand God's master plan for us. At times we may want to give up but we should trust that He is working in our best interest.

When a stained glass window finally goes up and the sunlight shines through, all you can do is step back, admire it and praise the person who created it. We want God's Word to shine through us and those we come into contact with. We cannot shine a light to others, unless Christ has put a light into us first. He did this through his death on the cross, that we may become shining pillars reflecting his love and mercy, bright enough for all to see. How awesome it would be to show others the wonders of our awesome creator!

Closing Prayer: *Dear God, give us the courage to put our full trust in Your plans for us. Help us to be illuminated by Your light, reflecting Christ's love and grace in all we say and do. Amen.*