



Children's Talk Options

Two different suggestions are given. A slide set accompanies each: download either **BSG19 Children's Talk Tasty PPT** or **BSG19 Children's Talk Bright PPT**. These are in 4x3 format. If you prefer 16x9, the slides you want can be selected from the **BSG19 All-age PPT format 16 9**.

Talk Option 1 - Tasty

INTRO **PPT Slide 1 – Tasty Bright & Smelly slide**

Today is Back to School with God Sunday, when we think about the new school year and get ready for going back to school with God by our side. Not only is he with us in school, he calls us as his followers to be Tasty, Bright and Smelly! Let's think what that means.

BIBLE **PPT Slide 2 – Bible verse**

We hear what Jesus says about being 'Tasty' in Matthew 5:13. (*You may wish to invite a young person to read these verses aloud.*)

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It must be thrown out for people to walk on. Matthew 5:13 (ICB)

Jesus doesn't mean that people are salt. Jesus is using picture language here, using something that people use in everyday life – salt – to help us understand what he is teaching. Jesus is using a simile. He is using salt, and what it is like, to help us understand what we should be like. So, what is salt like? What difference does it make? Let's find out!

ACTIVITY **Choose one of the following illustrations:**

- Invite someone out to wash their hands. Ask them to dip a finger in a glass of plain water, then another finger in a glass of salt water. Invite them to lick their fingers. Can they tell which is which? What is the difference between them?
- Invite someone to taste an unsalted crisp such as 'Salt n Shake' and then try a ready salted one. What is the difference between them?

TEACHING **PPT Slide 3 – Salt makes a difference**

Salt is very important. We can't always see the salt, but when it is there we can tell – we notice the difference.

When Jesus said we are the salt of the earth, he meant that people like you and me can make a difference to the people around us. We might look like other people on the outside – but if we follow Jesus, we are different on the inside. People can't see Jesus living in us – but if we act like Jesus, people can see the

difference Jesus makes, just like they can tell whether something has salt in it or not!

We do this by copying Jesus and the kind of things he did. Not like Morph...

VIDEO **Morph 'Portable hole' clip**

Search YouTube 'Morph Portable hole'. The clip shows Morph tricking his friend. If preferred, choose another short film clip which illustrates naughty behaviour and will appeal to all ages.

TEACHING **PPT Slide 4 – Making a difference**

In the second part of the Bible verse, Jesus gives us a bit of a warning. “...**if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It must be thrown out for people to walk on.**” v13

What Jesus is saying is that we need to pay attention. We need to keep reminding ourselves to make a difference, letting others see what Jesus is like.

Here is something to think about this morning as we go back to school:

PPT Slide 5 – Questions to think about

- Do we think, speak and act differently because Jesus is our friend?
- Do we make a difference to the people around us? Are we good to be with? Do we cheer people up, and encourage them with kind words? Do we bless them, and point them to God?

As we go back to school, let's make a difference. Let's be tasty for Jesus!

PRAISE

Something suitable for children. Own choice, or we suggest:

- Ready to go (Getty music, ©2005)
- Build Up (Fischy Music, www.fischy.com)
- We can do good (Fischy Music, www.fischy.com)

Talk Option 2 - Bright

INTRO **PPT Slide 1 – Tasty Bright & Smelly slide**

Today is Back to School with God Sunday, when we think about the new school year and get ready for going back to school with God by our side. Not only is he with us in school, he calls us as his followers to be Tasty, Bright and Smelly! Let's think what that means.

BIBLE **PPT Slide 2 – Bible verse**

You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

EXPLAIN Light is very powerful! *(Turn on a strong beam of light, such as a powerful torch).*

Imagine if there was no sun, no moon, no street lights. The world would be a very dark place indeed. We need light – it is very important.

PPT Slide 3 – Illustrations

Light...

- Shows the way (street light)
- Gives warmth and heat (blazing bonfire)
- Spreads and brings hope (dawn)
- Attracts (flies buzzing around a lamp)

ACTIVITY **The Light Test**

Before the service, place a number of items inside a bag. Suggested items: a banana, a mug, a watch, a ruler, a school tie, a sharpener, a sandwich box. Blindfold a child then invite them to feel inside the bag and guess an item. Pass the blindfold around so that others can have a turn. One by one bring all the things out into the light to reveal them.

TEACH We can only really know what these things are when they are out in the light. In the same way the Bible tells us that if we follow Jesus, we shouldn't keep it a secret and keep it in the dark. Rather, we should be happy to bring that good news into the open, to share it with our friends.

Light is about being visible so others can see God: that means not hiding the good things we know about him and the great things he has done for us but spreading that to other people.

PPT Slide 4 – SHINE

Last November, Scripture Union ran a project across the whole of the country – England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland – called SHINE in Schools. The point was to do just what Jesus says in this passage – to “be a light for other people”. It was about not keeping following Jesus a secret.

Jesus tells us to shine brightly. Young people ran lunchtime events, watched videos, shared testimonies, invited others along to their SU Group. Other students

noticed the difference these young people were making in their schools and were attracted along. Isn't it great that lots of schools took up that challenge?!

This shouldn't happen just once a year. It is something we *all* need to do *all* the time. And it doesn't have to be complicated. Here are some ideas. In answer to the question, "How do you show the difference Jesus makes in your school?" some young people shared simple ways they are doing this.

VIDEO **PPT Slide 5 (insert BSG19 Video – Making a Difference for God)**
A short video clip featuring young people from across the UK.

CHALLENGE Here is something to think about this morning as we go back to school:

PPT Slide 6 – Questions to think about

- Can we shine brightly for Jesus in *our* school?
- What simple thing can we do to make a difference, spreading the light of Jesus' love to others?

PRAYER Let's pray about that.

Before the service identify children, teenagers and adults who might take part in the following prayer. Ask those taking part to come forward at this point and invite the whole congregation to join in by saying together the phrase 'Help me to shine brightly' after each person has spoken.

PPT Slide 7 – Responsive prayer

<i>(pupil)</i> (all)	When I stop and help someone in the playground... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(pupil)</i> (all)	When I stop and help someone in the playground... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(pupil)</i> (all)	When I do the right thing and include people that others leave out... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(pupil)</i> (all)	When people laugh because I am the only one who doesn't swear... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(pupil)</i> (all)	When others mock me for going to my school SU Group... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(pupil)</i> (all)	When I am brave enough to invite friends along to church... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(teacher)</i> (all)	When I treat my pupils with love and respect... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(school staff)</i> (all)	When I chat to others in the staffroom... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(adult)</i> (all)	When I talk to parents and grandparents at the school gate... help me to shine brightly.
<i>(adult)</i> (all)	When I faithfully pray for my school... help me to shine brightly.
ALL	AMEN.

Invite everyone to return to their seats.

PRAISE

Choose from the following, or select one of your own choice:

For younger children:

- He is my Light (Getty, ©2016)
- I am a City on a Hill (Nick & Becky Drake, ©2015)
- Shine from the inside out (Nick Jackson, ©2007 Powerpack)
- This Little Light of Mine (Lifetree Kids, ©2016)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA

For older children and teenagers:

- This Little Light (LZ7, ©2010) is a good rap video to watch
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByngJinhKb4&list=PLynpFt68hA-el_HQMxFK6iqyRCuyozl_h

For all ages together:

- My lighthouse (Rend Collective, ©2014)
- Light of the world you stepped down into darkness (Michael Smith, ©2002)
- Christ be our Light (Bernadette Farrell, ©1993)