

TPE Kids page

Flashy friends

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This little light

Have you ever seen a field of dancing, twinkling fireflies? These amazing insects live on every continent in the world except Antarctica. In the United States, they prefer the eastern half of the country.

Fireflies aren't really flies at all. They are beetles, the most common group of insects on earth. But fireflies are unique from most other beetles because they are bioluminescent. That means they have chemicals in their bodies that cause them to light up.

No one knows for sure how fireflies turn their lights on and off. But scientists have discovered they use these lights to signal and attract one another. With their blinking abdomens, they send messages that other fireflies see and understand.

Jesus taught that Christians are to be lights.

Though there is sin and darkness in the world, our lives can shine with the love and truth of Jesus as we share His message with those around us.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV).

What can you do today to let your light shine for Jesus?

Try this!

With an adult's permission, use flashlights to communicate with a friend — firefly style — across your backyard at night. Ahead of time, agree on a few code signals. For example, three quick flashes could mean "meet me at the big tree" and two long flashes could mean "OK!" See if you can successfully "talk" to each other with light just like fireflies.



JUST FOR laughs

Why do fireflies do well in school?
They're very bright.

What did the firefly father ask his children?

What do you want to be when you glow up?

What do you get when you cross a firefly with an angry hornet?

I don't know, but at least you can see it coming.



Did you know?

Firefly babies, or larvae, are sometimes called glowworms. Their glowing bodies warn predators that they taste bad and are poisonous. Many adult fireflies also contain poisons that make them a poor food choice for other creatures.

When you see fireflies zipping around in the air, they're probably males. Female fireflies don't log much flight time. In fact, some can't fly at all.

Enter to win!

Be your own captain with this balloon-powered boat. Enter online by Aug. 5 at tpe.ag.org or mail an entry postmarked on or before that date to Boat Giveaway, 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Mo. 65802. Include a daytime phone number. You must have a parent's permission to enter.



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