

a script from

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Light Shine: The Short Video Test

REMOVE

WATERMARK

AT

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LIGHT SHINE: THE SHORT VIDEO TEST

Summary

The youth ministry team is fired up to promote their next church gathering, and they decide to film a short hype video. Immediately, everything becomes a “TikTok–make perfect” emergency. Teens debate filters, angles, catchphrases, trending sounds, and who deserves the main role. One teen insists the message needs to be bold and clear; another is terrified it’ll be embarrassing. Someone keeps yelling “Again!” like they’re directing a movie with a million-dollar budget, even though they’re filming next to a stack of folding chairs.

As they rehearse, the content becomes all shine and no light: lots of energy, no substance. The youth leader pauses the chaos with one question: “What’s the message?” No one can answer. The leader reads a short Scripture about letting your light shine and explains that faith isn’t about going viral; it’s about being visible in the right ways. They restart with a simpler plan: each teen shares one honest sentence about how faith helps them under pressure, doubt, loneliness, or temptation. The humor remains, but the tone shifts toward purpose. The skit ends with the reminder that God uses authenticity more than polish.

Theme

When faith is real, it shines without needing special effects.

Characters

(7-11 actors)

- **Narrator** – sets the scene, adds comedic commentary
- **Pastor Jordan (Youth Leader)** – steady, kind, redirecting toward purpose
- **Maddie** – bold, passionate about a clear gospel message
- **Tori** – anxious, worries about embarrassment
- **Jayden** – trend-obsessed, wants it “viral”
- **Luca** – dramatic “director,” perfectionist
- **Bree** – filter/angle expert, loves aesthetics
- **Ethan** – quiet, thoughtful, sincere
- **Kai** – goofy, spontaneous, heart under humor

When

Modern day (youth room, before a church gathering)

Props & Costumes

- Phone on a tripod (or pretend tripod)
- Ring light (optional)
- Marker sign: “NEXT YOUTH NIGHT!”
- A few folding chairs
- A Bible for Jordan
- Optional: clapboard prop, sunglasses, hoodie, “director” cap

Why

Matthew 5:16 — “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Meaning: Our faith isn’t for attention; it’s to point people to God through visible, genuine living.

How

Set in a youth room. The “video set” is a small area with the phone/tripod and sign.

Time

10 minutes

Scene 1: “TikTok–Make Perfect” Planning Meeting

(Youth room. A phone on a tripod faces a poster that says “NEXT YOUTH NIGHT!” Folding chairs in the background. Bree adjusts a ring light like it’s surgery. Luca holds an imaginary director’s headset. Jayden warms up with influencer poses. Tori hovers near the door like she might teleport out. Maddie carries a marker, ready to rewrite everything. Ethan sits quietly, watching. Kai spins a chair once and immediately regrets it.)

Narrator:

Tonight’s mission is simple: make a short promo video for the next youth gathering. A wholesome 20–30 seconds. A quick invite. Easy! Except that teenagers can turn “quick” into “a trilogy.”

Luca:

People, focus! This is our cinematic breakthrough. We are creating a masterpiece that will make people say, “Wow, I should definitely attend... and also give them an award.”

Jayden:

We need a trending sound. Something that goes: “BOOM!” then a dramatic zoom, then the words “YOUTH NIGHT” appear as they descend from heaven.

Bree:

Also, we need good lighting. If my face looks like a potato in this video, I’m switching churches.

Kai:

Potatoes are biblical. God used potatoes—

(beat)

Actually, never mind. But I feel like He would.

Tori:

What if we just... don’t film? Like what if we invite people with... words. In person. Like pioneers.

Maddie:

No. We should film. But it needs a message. Not just vibes.

Ethan:

What’s the goal? To invite them... or impress them?

Luca:

Both. If we impress them, they’ll come. That’s science.

Narrator:

Somewhere in the room, wisdom tries to enter. It slips on a ring light cable and quietly leaves.

Bree:

Okay, positions. Who’s center frame? Because center frame is basically ministry leadership.

Jayden:

I should be center. I have “main character jawline.”

Kai:

I should be center. I have “unexpected chaos” which is relatable.

Maddie:

Nobody should be center if the message isn’t center.

Tori:

Can the message be center without me being on camera? Asking for my nervous system.

Luca:

Alright! We’ll rotate. Like a holy boy band. Now, everyone practice your “inviting but mysterious” face.

(Everyone attempts it. It looks like they’re trying not to sneeze.)

Scene 2: Take 1 Through Take Infinity

(They gather near the phone. Bree holds up three fingers for a countdown. Luca points like a director. Jayden steps forward, ready to deliver. Kai stands just off camera, vibrating with ideas.)

Bree:

Rolling in three... two... one.

Jayden:

Yo what's up, fam! Pull up to youth night because it's gonna be—

Bree:

Cut. Your chin is doing something. It's giving "confused turtle." Angle up.

Jayden:

My chin is part of my testimony.

Luca:

Again! With more energy and less turtle!

Maddie:

Can we please say something about Jesus?

Luca:

Not yet. We need the hook first. The hook is... sparkle.

Kai:

I can throw confetti for sparkle.

Tori:

Confetti is glitter's evil cousin.

Ethan:

Maybe the hook could be... "You're invited"?

Jayden:

Too plain. People scroll past plain. We need "scroll-stopping."

Narrator:

They are building a video like it's a sandwich made entirely of sauce.

Bree:

What if we use the "angel halo" filter?

Tori:

That feels dishonest. I do not wake up with a halo. I wake up with... chaos.

Kai:

I wake up with a halo of hair that refuses to obey.

Maddie:

Okay—line idea: “Come meet Jesus.” Simple. True. Bold.

Luca:

That’s... intense for second one. We need something like, “This is the place to be!”

(to camera)

Everyone say it with smiles that look natural!

All (overlapping, awkward):

This is the place to be!

Tori:

That sounded like an ad for a used couch.

Jayden:

What if we do a transition? Like I snap and suddenly I’m wearing a suit.

Kai:

What if I snap and suddenly I’m emotionally stable?

Bree:

What if we do a zoom on snacks? People love snacks.

Maddie:

We’re not marketing chips. We’re inviting people to faith.

Luca:

We can do both. Chips and faith. Faith-flavored chips.

Narrator:

The hype grows. The meaning shrinks. And then the door opens with the gentle power of someone who has seen this exact chaos before.

Scene 3: “What’s the Message?”

(Pastor Jordan enters holding a Bible and wearing the calm expression of a man who has survived youth camp. The group freezes like they've been caught filming a low-budget commercial.)

Jordan:

Hey, team. I heard we're making a promo.

Luca:

Yes! And it's going to be legendary. We're on take... forty-ish.

Jordan:

Forty? That's a biblical number. Usually it means the process is longer than you wanted.

Kai:

We are wandering in the desert of content.

Jordan:

Okay. Simple question: what's the message?

(Silence. Bree blinks. Jayden opens his mouth, then closes it. Tori looks at the floor. Luca stares at the ring light like it betrayed him.)

Jayden:

The message is... youth night is... fire?

Bree:

The message is... we have good lighting?

Tori:

The message is... please don't tag me?

Maddie:

The message is supposed to be Jesus. But we keep burying it under effects.

Jordan:

Thank you for saying it.

Look, I'm not anti-fun. I'm pro-purpose. Faith isn't about going viral. It's about being visible in the right ways.

Luca:

So... less sparkle?

Jordan:

Sparkle is fine. But sparkle can't replace substance.

(opens Bible)

Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others, so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” That’s Matthew 5:16.

Ethan:

So the light isn’t... attention on us.

Jordan:

Exactly. Our goal isn’t “Look at me.” It’s “Look at Him.”

If our video is only polish, it’s like a flashlight with dead batteries—shiny, but not helpful.

Kai:

So we’re currently... decorative darkness.

Jordan:

That’s the funniest sad thing I’ve heard today.

Let’s restart. Here’s the plan: each of you shares one honest sentence about how faith helps you in real life. Pressure, doubt, loneliness, temptation—whatever is true. No acting. No catchphrases. Just real.

Tori:

Real... like actual real?

Jordan:

Yes. God uses authenticity more than perfection.

Narrator:

And the room shifts. Not because the ring light got brighter—because the purpose did.

Scene 4: The Honest Take

(They reset. Bree adjusts the camera once, then steps back like she’s giving up control. Luca puts his “director hands” down and tries to breathe. Jordan stands off to the side, encouraging. The teens line up.)

Bree:

Okay. Rolling. Three... two... one.

Jayden:

Hi. I’m Jayden. I like being noticed... but faith helps me when I feel like I have to impress everyone, because Jesus already knows me and still loves me.

(A beat. Bree’s face softens.)

Bree:

Okay. That was... not cringe. That was... good.

Maddie:

I'm Maddie. Following Jesus helps me be bold without being mean. Like I can tell the truth with love, even when it's awkward and my hands are shaking.

Tori:

I'm Tori. I get anxious—like, “my brain has fifteen tabs open” anxious. Faith helps me because I can pray honestly, and I'm learning I'm not alone. God is with me even when I'm embarrassed.

Kai:

I'm Kai. I joke a lot. Sometimes it's because I'm happy... and sometimes it's because I'm hurting. Faith helps me because God doesn't get tired of me, and I don't have to perform my way into being loved.

Ethan:

I'm Ethan. Sometimes I doubt. Faith helps me because Jesus isn't scared of my questions. He keeps pulling me back when I drift, even when I'm quiet about it.

Bree:

I'm Bree. I care way too much about looking perfect. Faith helps me because God sees the real me, and He still calls me His. Also... it's kind of peaceful to not be a brand.

Luca:

I'm Luca. I try to control everything—shots, plans, people. Faith helps me because I'm not God. And admitting that is honestly the most relaxing thing I've ever done.

(Jordan nods, proud but gentle.)

Jordan:

That's it. That's light. Not staged perfection—real faith in real life.

Narrator:

The video got simpler. But the room got brighter.

Scene 5: Light Without Special Effects

(Bree stops recording. Everyone exhales like they've been holding their breath since middle school. Luca looks at the phone like it's no longer an enemy.)

Jayden:

Wait... did we just make something meaningful without explosions?

Kai:

We made a video powered by emotional honesty. That's basically renewable energy.

Tori:

I'm still nervous. But... it didn't feel embarrassing. It felt true.

Maddie:

That's what I wanted. Not hype. Hope.

Bree:

And I didn't even think about filters for, like, thirty whole seconds. That's healing.

Luca:

Can we still add captions though? Captions are my love language.

Jordan:

Captions are fine. Just don't caption over the message.

Remember: the goal isn't "How many views?" The goal is "Who needs this?"

Ethan:

Someone lonely. Someone pressured. Someone trying to look okay.

Jordan:

Yes. God uses simple truth.

And here's what I want you to remember: when faith is real, it shines without needing special effects. Your life can be the loudest sermon without shouting—because light doesn't have to brag. It just shows.

Kai:

So we're not trying to be famous. We're trying to be faithful.

Jordan:

Exactly. God can use a sincere sentence more than a perfect edit.

Narrator:

They started with angles. They ended with purpose. And that's how light works: it doesn't need to go viral to reach someone in the dark.

(Jordan gathers them in a small circle.)

Jordan:

Let's pray for whoever sees this. God, use it. Use our honesty. Help our light point to You.

(They nod, quietly hopeful. Lights fade.)

END