

Share the Light

Matthew 5:14-16

*“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”
- Matt. 5:14*

Main Point: As followers of Christ we are called to let our light shine

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

How strict do you keep your privacy settings on your social media accounts? What is the main reason you have chosen that level of privacy or publicity?

Internet aside, do you consider yourself a very private person? Why or why not?

Why does our culture teach the lie that we must keep our religious beliefs to ourselves? How have you seen this mindset surface in the media recently?

Our culture has taught us that we can have whatever religious beliefs we want as long as we keep them to ourselves. Many Christians have bought into this lie, but in today's text Jesus was clear: we are to shine our light, not hide it under a basket. Our faith in Jesus should not be a private matter.

If we are to be a Light to the World we must understand:

1. The NATURE OF LIGHT. Have a volunteer read Matthew 5:14.

Comparing your faith to the “city set on a hill,” what do you think it means to be the light of Christ?

Read 1 John 1:5-7. What opportunity do we have as those who walk in the light? What are the consequences of we can imply from walking in the darkness?

Light exposes darkness. Read John 3:20 and discuss why people don't want to shed light on their life.

2. The POSITION OF THE LIGHT. Read Matthew 5:15.

In what situations do people tend to hide their light “under a basket”?

If Jesus is the Light of the world, what does that imply about the world? What does imply about you?

How do believers, when they act like light, help non believers find their way? What answers to believers have that non-believers don't?

3. The RADIANCE OF LIGHT. Read Matthew 5:16.

Are Christians' lifestyles and the gospel message shining brighter or less bright than, say, 20 years ago? What evidence do you see of that?

Matthew 7:16 says of Christ's followers, "By their fruit you will recognize them." What kind of fruit should we be producing that will increase our radiance in this community?

What areas of your life might need to be tamped down in order for the light of Christ to shine more brightly? What is something you need to eliminate from your life so that it reflects the righteousness of Christ more?

APPLY IT:

Read James 2:14-18. What "good deeds" could you and your group become involved in so that it draws attention to Christ?

What could you invite a friend or neighbor who needs Jesus to be a part of in order to "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven?"

Pray:

Today's Scripture passage forces us to honestly evaluate whether our lives display God's truth to the world. Close today's group session with a silent time of reflective prayer. Encourage group members to confess to God the things they've been convicted about this week and this morning. Then close by challenging them to make their relationships with Jesus public this week.

Coming up @ VillageChurch:

New Series: "Share" starting August 13th

Discovery Class: August 27th after 10am worship. RVSP info@blythewoodvillage.com

VGroup Fair: August 20, 27 and Sept 10. Meet VGroup leaders and sign up for Fall semester

Balloons and Tunes: September 22nd 6-8pm. Sign up to volunteer in the worship lobby!