

SHINE BRIGHT

You are the light of the world.

- *Matthew 5:14*

Theme: WE are called to shine bright for Jesus in order to draw people to God.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. – Matthew 4:16

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever been afraid of the dark? Share an experience.

Why is the darkness a scary place? How does a bright life help extinguish that fear?

Read Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may

QUOTE: The effects of salt and light are complementary. The function of salt is largely negative: it prevents decay. The function of light is positive: it illuminates the darkness. For it is one thing to stop the spread of evil; it is another to promote the spread of truth, beauty and goodness. Jesus calls us to do both.

- Why does Jesus call us to have a balance between preventing decay and illuminating darkness?

- What happens when we do not have this balance and lean too heavily on with preventing decay or illuminating darkness?

Matthew 5:14-16

- You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Sermon Discussion:

- What were some of the qualities of light that were discussed in the sermon?
- What might these qualities say about the life of a follower of Jesus in our world?
- How do these qualities encourage and challenge you to shine bright?
- What relationship can you see between the beatitudes and our role as light in society?

You Are the Light:

Verse 14: You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.

- What does it mean to you that Jesus calls his disciples (including you) to be the light of the world?

Quote: William Barclay.

Christianity is something which is meant to be seen. There is no such thing as secret discipleship. Either secrecy destroys discipleship or the discipleship destroys secrecy. A person's faith should be perfectly visible to all.

- What is the danger of shining your spiritual light of all to see?

- What is the danger of keeping your light hidden?

Jesus said, “Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19)

- Why do people love darkness so much?

- Why might we be tempted to hide our light?

Verse 15: No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.

QUOTE: John Stott

We may be tempted to hide our light because we are afraid of the people who hate light and what they might do. We may also be embarrassed, timid or unaware of opportunities.

- Share experiences where you were embarrassed or timid to “lite your light shine.”

- What fears keep us from shining bright?

- Why do these fears have such power over us?

I John 4: 18 -19

There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears is not complete in love. We love because he first loved us.

- What role does love play in fear?
- How does knowing God loved us first, encourage us in shining bright.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

- What is the result, according to Jesus, of people seeing our good deeds?
- What examples can you think of where the work of Christians has brought people closer to God? Can you think of any in your own life?
- What is one way you can begin having a stronger influence as light in our world?

QUOTE: John Stott

Jesus says we give light by our *good deeds*. It seems that *good deeds* is a general expression to cover anything Christians say and do because they are Christians, every outward and visible manifestation of their Christian faith. They express not only our loyalty to God, but also our care for others as well. Indeed, the primary meaning of deeds must be practical, visible acts of compassion. Is when people see these, Jesus said, they will glorify God, for they embody the good news of His love, which we proclaim. Without them, our gospel loses its credibility and our God his honor.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, you called me to be the light of the world. Help me to shine bright and not hide the light of your amazing grace into our world. Show me where my light is being dimmed and give me opportunities to shine bright for you. In Jesus name, Amen.