



The Light of the World

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Matthew 5:14-16

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. - Matthew 5:14-15

Jesus says His followers are the light of the world. This week, find out how you can shine God's amazing light into the world around you. Pray each day to talk to God about what you are learning.



Day #1: The Light



Have you ever thought about the sun? Now there's a light! Scientists tell us that the sun is a ball of burning gases that is 109 times larger than the earth! That is like a basketball compared to the head of a pin. When the sun is shining, it lights up half of our planet at a time. What does it mean when Jesus tells us to shine?

In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 5:16

What exactly is this light? We shine Jesus' light when we love one another (1 John 2:9-10) and take care of other people (John 21:16). We are to use wholesome speech, be thankful to God, stay away from evil deeds, and use God's Word in our speech (Ephesians 5:4-20). When we do these things, people who live in darkness will be drawn to God's incredible light.

Does this sound like a hard list to follow? It is helpful to remember that you are God's instrument. **You are not the source of the light. God is the source of the light.** Did you know that in heaven there is no sun or stars? God's glory is so bright that His very presence lights all of heaven! (Revelation 21:23) Plugging into the "source" by reading the Bible and praying daily is the key. Having a *relationship* with Jesus is the only way to be able to shine His light for others to see.

Day #2: The Witness

Have you ever watched a scene from a movie that takes place in a courtroom? There is a judge, a group of people called the jury, and there is a witness.

Day #2 continued:

John 1:6-9 describes Jesus' cousin John the Baptist: "A man came who was sent from God. His name was John. He came to give witness about that light. He gave witness so that all people could believe. John himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world."

What does it mean to be a witness? A witness in a courtroom is one who has seen something and tells the truth about it. Telling the truth is called "testifying." We who have put our trust in Jesus have seen how Jesus has changed our lives. The Holy Spirit has opened our eyes to the truth (John 16:7-11, 1 Corinthians 2:12, John 15:26) and we are to tell others about it. 1 John 4:14 says, "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world." What awesome news to tell!

Whom can you be a witness to? You probably hang out regularly with people who don't know about Jesus. Maybe it is at school, on your swim team or playing in your neighborhood. Jesus said He has placed us in the world so we can point people to Him (John 17:15, 18; Matthew 5:16). Pray and ask God to help you be a witness to everyone you know.

Day #3: Who Needs It?

Grab a flashlight. Then find a very dark spot in your house. Go there and sit for a few minutes in the dark. Can you remember what is all around you? Try to imagine where everything is and what it all looks like. The longer you sit in the darkness, the more distorted your memory will become. Now turn on your flashlight. Do the things look different than you thought?

Day #3 continued:



This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. - John 3:19

The Bible says Jesus is the Light. It also says He is the Truth. Sometimes people do not want to hear about Jesus because His goodness shines light on their bad deeds. 1 Corinthians 4:5 says, "He [the Lord] will bring to light what is hidden in the dark. He will show the real reasons people do what they do." But people in the dark need the light. The Bible tells us that God's Word is a lamp that lights our way (Psalm 119:105). It instructs us how to live and it will give us joy deep down. And it teaches about God's gift of eternal life. Psalm 6:23 says, "For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life." (NIV)

Pray and thank God for who He is. Thank Him for being the Light and for giving us His Word that lights our way. Thank God for inviting you to shine His light in this world. **Ask Him to shine His light through you.**

Day #4: Wasted Light

Get out your flashlight again. Get a bowl that is larger than the flashlight. (Or a nice thick towel will work.) Try to find a dark spot and turn on the flashlight. The flashlight lights the area, doing what it is designed to do. Now with the flashlight still on, cover the light with the bowl. Now the light cannot be seen. The light is wasted. Why even bother turning on the flashlight if it cannot show its light?



You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. - Matthew 5:14-15

There are times when a Christian might be tempted to hide his or her faith. Maybe it is because they are afraid people will make fun of them, or maybe they think people will not like them. But if we do not share God's love and God's Word, we are like the wasted flashlight. If we hide who we are, we are not fulfilling our purpose here on earth. Jesus said when His believers do good things, people will see those things and praise God.

Day #4 continued:

Have you ever been tempted to hide your light? It is interesting that light dispels darkness, darkness does not dispel light. You can't make a light room dark with a "handful" of dark. When you try to stand up for things that are good in order to shine God's light, don't be afraid. 1 John 4:4 says, "...the one who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." Have confidence knowing that God, whose Spirit lives inside Christians, is much more powerful than anything in this world.

Day #5: The Source

Turn on a lamp in your house. It is wonderful how that lamp can light up a room. The lamp is doing what it is designed to do. However, the lamp is just an instrument. Look at the lamp's cord. Where does it lead? The socket in the wall. If the lamp were unplugged, no light would shine out of it. The lamp is shining because of the power that comes from the electric company! In the same way, Christians are instruments of God's power.



GOD is the source of our light. We can only shine when we let His power work through us.



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12 (NIV)

It is right for us to do good things and shine God's light into the dark world. When we do, we need to be sure to give God the credit. Let people know that He is the reason you do good things. If you help someone, be sure to tell them that God has given you the ability to help them. When you make wise choices, let your friends know that your wisdom comes from God. Can you think of a way to give God credit for something He has done through you? When we give God the credit He deserves, people will be drawn to Him!

