



PERSPECTIVES

on SHARING HOPE

SHINE

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”
(Matthew 5:14-16)

Jesus said: “Let your light shine”

What are the consequences of being the light of the world?

1. I am shining

- a. Christ gives us an inner light
- b. Our inner light has an outward impact
- c.. Our light expresses itself in good deeds
- d. The goal is that people see God not me

2. I can block the light

- a. Shine-Blockers (Sin Producing Factors)
 - Pride (SPF 100)
 - Fear (SPF 100)
 - Apathy (SPF 100)
 - Judgment (SPF 100)

3. A changed perspective on sharing hope

- a. When I shine, I lead others to follow Jesus, love God, and love others.
- b. When I shine, the mission of the church is being accomplished.

MESSAGE BASED SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

SHINE

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(Mt 5:14-16)

1. When we think about “the light of the world” we mostly think about Jesus (Jn 8:12). Why are some people uncomfortable with Jesus’ words that “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)
2. Why is it important to understand that Christ is the one who gives us our light? (cf., John 1:9)
3. Jesus says that our light is made visible by good deeds. What are some ways you can show your light? From this passage, why is it important to have a consistent life marked by good deeds?
4. Read Isaiah 9:2. Jesus often quotes or alludes to Isaiah in the Gospels. How does this passage help us understand the importance of being light of the world?
5. Jesus warns people not to display their good works before people (Matt 6:1) but here he says to do our good works openly. How does last part of Matt 5:16 help us understand the difference?
6. Just as we can wear sun-block to keep the sun’s radiation from damaging our skin, we can have shine-blockers in our lives that stop others from seeing the light of Christ. How is ‘pride’ a significant shine-blocker? (cf., Matt 6:1, 5, etc.)
7. What are some of the biggest “shine-blocking fears” a person can have?
8. Some have said that the main Canadian cultural value is apathy. How does apathy destroy our ability to shine the light of Christ. What are some ways to overcome apathy in our lives?
9. In many ways judgment of others is the opposite of loving others – it is very difficult to fully love someone when we are criticizing them harshly. God sees every flaw and sin and chooses to love us. What are some ways that help you see through the broken and sinful veneer to the beautiful image of God within each person?
10. In Luke 10:6, Jesus sends out his disciples and tells them to find a “person of peace”. Often a “person of peace” is someone who does not believe in Jesus themselves but is willing to be your friend and is interested in hearing about your faith. Often, they even want to serve you. Identify a couple of “people of peace” in your life. How can you develop those relationships so they too might believe and praise your Father who is in heaven.