

TOPIC/THEME: "You are the light" - God's plan for us, created to be light

MAIN TEACHING PASSAGE: Matthew 5:14-16

Additional Verses: Genesis 1:3; Isaiah 49:6; Romans 13:11-14; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; 11:14-15; John 3:19-21; 8:12;

Ephesians 2:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

POSSIBLE ICE BREAKERS:

#1 - What's a social event you'd like for us to do as a group this year?

#2 - What three words best describe you and why?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION: Feel free to use whatever questions here you think best apply to your group. Remember the goal is go deeper in discussion and help the students to take the next step in their faith. All of these questions should help you get to the application of the lesson for each individual. The application may be different for each person in the group based on where they are at spiritually. Be sure to work from head to heart to hands!

HEAD QUESTIONS: Use these questions to get people talking, everyone can answer based upon their knowledge and understanding of the topic.

- *In your opinion, what does it mean to be the light of the world?
- *Why do you think Jesus chose to use the analogy of light (vs. darkness)?
- *How do "good works" equate to letting your light shine?
- *What did you learn (or re-learn) from tonight's lesson?
- *In your own words, what would you say was the main point of the lesson?

HEART QUESTIONS: Use these questions to go deeper, answers should be specific to each individual rather than generic and in theory.

- *Did you agree or disagree with anyone that was said tonight? Why?
- *What did you hear God speaking to you about tonight?
- *Do you really believe that God created us to do good works (Ephesians 2:10)? Why or why not?
- *Why do you think we should we be lights in a dark world (John 3:19-21 & Philippians 2:15)?
- *What kind of light would you compare yourself to and why? (i.e. a match? a flashlight? a lamp?)
- *What dark places do you spend time in that God wants you to be a light? Are there others there who can be a light? What kind of impact could you and/or them have by letting your light shine?
- *What things prevent you from letting your light shine?

HANDS QUESTIONS: Use these questions to create application and action using what we've learned and discussed. Be specific about your plans and invite accountability & prayer to help affect change.

- *What's something you can commit to do this week to let your light shine?
- *Who is a person that you know who lives in darkness that we can be praying for to see the light?
- *How can you shine the light in that persons life?
- *What can we do this week to hold you accountable and to encourage you in your commitments this week?

RESOURCES: Here are some additional resources that might be helpful to you as you prepare or if someone in your group wants to research deeper on this topic.

- How to be the light in a dark world (think abortion, homosexuality, etc.) <u>www.desiringgod.org/articles/</u> christians-you-are-the-light-of-the-world
- How do we know good vs. evil or true light vs. true darkness www.gotquestions.org/angel-of-light.html