

“You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NCV)

Shine Brightly

I want to shine brightly for you in this dark world. I want others to see your good work in and through my life so clearly that they will give all the glory to you. I don’t want anything to obscure the light of you shining in and through my life. **You have some questions for me, don’t you? You have something on your mind you want to ask me, is that right?** I do have something on my mind. I do have something I want to ask you. I want to know how brightly can I shine for you? Is wanting to shine brightly for you, with something like the brilliance of a star in the universe, a form of pride? I don’t want to shine dimly for you, like a single candle. I want to shine as brightly for you as you will allow me to shine for you. I want your light shining brightly in and through my life to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and to bring glory to your name. I don’t want to hinder your light shining in and through my life. **You are asking unusual questions.** What do you mean by that? **Not a lot of people ask me how brightly can they shine for me. Not many people give shining brightly for me much thought. Why do you think you are asking me these questions?** I will tell you one thing that is certain. **What’s that?** I didn’t dream up the desire to shine brightly for you. It wasn’t in my plan to want to bear fruit for your kingdom or bring glory to your name. These desires have not come from within me, that is for sure. Yet, the desire to shine brightly for you, bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name burns like a fire within me. **That’s very good.**

These desires that burn in your heart should tell you something. Like what? **You already know that they did not come from yourself. Where did these desires of your heart come from?** They came from you. **Yes, they did. I have given you the desire to shine brightly for me. I have given you the desire to bear fruit for my kingdom. I have given you the desire to bring glory to my name. All these desires come from me. I have placed all these desires in your heart. What does that tell you?** You have given and you will grant me these desires you have placed in my heart. **Yes, I will.** You would not have placed these desires in my heart if you had no intention of granting them. **That’s right.**

What will you keep on doing to shine brightly for me? What will you keep on doing to bear fruit for my kingdom? What will you keep on doing to bring glory to my name? I will keep on loving, following and serving you. I will keep on going where you guide me. I will keep on doing all that you ask of me. **That will be very good. Then all these desires of your heart will be fulfilled.**

Heavenly Father, I want to live as a light. I want to do good works that shine brightly in the darkness of this world. Help me to go to where you guide me to do all that you ask of me. Use my life to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

Be *A Light*

"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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

NIV Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all 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 who is in heaven.

ESV Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

"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.

NLT Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

NKJV Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all 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.

NRSV Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

MSG Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a peck measure, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence *and* your praiseworthy, noble, *and* good deeds and recognize *and* honor *and* praise *and* glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

AMP Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

You are the world's light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.

TLB Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

NASB Matthew 5:14-16

Be *A Light*

"You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

NCV Matthew 5:14-16

A Light

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Be – Matthew 5:14-16

In Context: *Read Matthew 5*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

“You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NCV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father, I want to live as a light. I want to do good works that shine brightly in the darkness of this world. Help me to go to where you guide me to do all that you ask of me. Use my life to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How have you come to know what good things God was giving you to do for Him?

What has it cost you to go and do good things for others?

Why have you been willing to go and do good things for others?

How has your life stood out like a bright light in a dark world as you have done good things for others?

How would the world be different if you did not shine brightly in it for God?

How rewarding has doing good things for God been now and will it be in the future?

How have the God given good things that you have done for others brought glory to God?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Live as a light in the world by doing good things that shine brightly and bring glory to God.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will live as a light by doing good things that shine brightly and bring glory to God.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how your good things shine brightly and bring glory to God.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May your light shine brightly so that your life will give glory to God

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, help my light to shine brightly so that my life will give glory to you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can my light shine brightly so that my life will give glory to you today?
