

November 4, 2018 In Sync with Jesus on Shining

Matthew 5:14-16

OPENING (10-15 minutes)

- Describe a time when you were in a dark place. What, if any, kind of light broke through?
- What insights from Sunday's service did you find most helpful? Most troubling?

CLARIFYING THE TEXT (20-30 minutes)

Read the passage aloud in your group. Use the questions below to dig in to Jesus' words.

- Where do you see yourself in Jesus' description?
- Jesus also proclaims himself as the light of the world (John 8:12). How does Jesus' light relate to our role as lights in the world?
- Review the beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. How do these character qualities relate to the kind of influence Jesus describes in verses 14-16?
- Close your eyes and consider the two images Jesus gives of light (verses 14-15). Sit with each image for a while. How do these word pictures expand your understanding or move you to action?
- What are good deeds those around you might see? How do those deeds give glory to God?
- Are there any other metaphors you can think of (besides salt and light) that might describe kingdom people?

Additional texts to consider:

- John 3:19
- John 8:12
- Philippians 2:14-16

OBEYING: How can you be more in sync with Jesus? (20 minutes)

- Name some of the people and places where God has called you to be a light. How can you shine brightly in those situations?
- What are things that might act as "bowls" or "baskets" in your life that cover or obscure the light of Jesus in you?

PRAYING: Close your group in prayer for each other to keep in sync with Jesus.



Questions / comments?

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