GROUP ICE BREAKER

What lessons about money did you learn from your parents?

REVIEW LAST WEEK’S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will offer a warning when I see someone stuck or overcome by sin.
- I will pray and follow the Spirit’s leading when giving a warning.
- When giving a warning, I will do it with gentleness.
- When giving a warning, I will tell the whole truth.
- When giving a warning, I will examine myself for any hint of self-righteousness, pride or spiritual superiority that will do damage.
- When giving a warning, I will approach the person with humility and grace.
- When giving a warning, I will be patient, as God is with me.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus lays out the conduct of the “kingdom of heaven,” the way of life for a follower of Jesus, or as we say at Blue Oaks, Christ-centered living. He says, “You are the light” that shines for all to see, that they would glorify your Father in heaven.

Be The Light is a vision to Build A Home and Invest In Hope. A home that is a place of belonging, where we laugh together, cry together, live life together, and worship God together. And an expanded investment in hope through four priorities; the homeless, foster kids and families, seniors, and those with special needs.

Have you ever asked God, “What would you do through me for the future of our church?” There’s a spiritual growth that only comes in the adventure of giving, when we surrender and sacrifice. Jesus talks about the sneakiness of money, how when you have more, instead of that freeing you up for complete, joyful surrender, often the heart closes and you start saying, “That’s mine.” We’re asking you to do the difficult spiritual work of re-surrendering what God has blessed you with and asking how he wants you to contribute to the Be the Light initiative over the next three years.

It will be a joyful thing to say, “I’m doing this for you God. I’m doing this for the people in our community who desperately need a place where they can come and experience you.”


**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read Matthew 5:14-16. How would you describe the “light” that Jesus says is to shine? How have you been a “light” to those around you?

2. Read Ephesians 4:17-19. What stands out to you from these verses? How do you see what Paul describes in the culture of the Bay Area?

3. Who was the “light” in your life that led to you becoming a follower of Christ? What about their life stood out to you?

4. If you participated in the Every|One Initiative in 2016, why did you choose to do so? How did you grow spiritually through the experience?

5. Jesus talks about the sneakiness of money, how with more, instead of freeing the heart for complete, joyful re-surrender, often the heart closes and says, “It's mine.” How does sacrificial giving combat this heart attitude?
**Next Steps for This Week (Commit to Grow)**

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will pray for the success of the Be The Light initiative.
- I will ask God what he wants to do through me for the future of our church.
- I will prayerfully make a financial commitment to fund this vision.

**Scripture References**

- Matthew 5:14-16
- Ephesians 4:17-18
- Matthew 25:37-40

**Prayer Requests**

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week: