



Light of the World

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is your favorite city you have visited or would like to visit and why?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

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

- I will live as the salt of the earth.
- I will continue to pray, "God, use me" until he shows me how he wants me to make a difference in this world.
- I will die to this culture and be fully available to be used by God.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Two cities, separated by three miles, set the stage of Jesus' words. Sepphoris, built by Herod Antipas as a monument to wealth and prosperity, and Nazareth, a town of desperation and poverty. Those in Nazareth called Sepphoris, "The city on a hill that cannot be hidden." Jesus says this is his plan for his followers, "You are the light of the world."

His followers had virtually no money, no influence, now power, no soldiers, no weapons — it's a joke that he compared them to Sepphoris. But what they did have was a community. It was a small one at first, but it was unlike any community that had ever existed in the world. For 2,000 years that single image of Jesus, that picture of a shining city set on a hill that could not be hidden is so powerful that the human race has never been able to forget it. Do you think we could be a city like that? Do you think we could be a church like that?

Everyone wants to do good. Jim Wallace in his book, "Faith Works," gives us a starting point, writing "You've got to get out of the house more often." If you'll get outside your normal world, serve and pray for a real person with a real name, your heart will be touched.

You see, doing good changes you. When you get to the end of your life, the greatest memories you have will not be of the pleasure moments you accumulated for yourself. They'll be the ways you spent yourself to bless the lives of other people. When you devote yourself to doing good deeds, you change the world one person at a time. Where can you do for one what you wish you could do for everyone?

Would you pray that Blue Oaks Church will be a city on a hill that cannot be hidden?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe your hometown, what it was like growing up or your memories of it. How did it contribute to who you are today?
2. Read Matthew 8:18-20. How does this passage impact your understanding of Jesus? Does it match what you've been taught or believed about Him? If not, how does it differ?
3. Who is someone you see bringing "light" to the world? How are they doing it?
4. Both a city on a hill and a lamp on stand have been put where they are with intention. What do those two illustrations add to your understanding of what it means to be "the light of the world"?
5. Read Galatians 6:9-10. Share an experience you've had with someone in need and the impact it had on your life.
6. Where or with whom (you don't have to use a name) can you do for one what you wish you could do for everyone?

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 get out of the house and let my light shine in this dark world.
- I will email compassion@blueoakchurch.org about how to get involved in doing good deeds in my community.
- I will pray that Blue Oaks becomes a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.
- I will reorient my time and resources toward the kingdom of God.
- I will do for one what I wish I could do for everyone.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 8:20
- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- Mark 6:3
- Matthew 5:14-16

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

- [A Deeper Look At the Sermon on the Mount: Living Out the Way of Jesus](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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