

AgapePoint Small Group (0014LG)
Holiday Series (Graduation 2009)
May 24, 2009

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Living As Light

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:14-16, NIV)

(Scriptures: [Romans 13:12](#); [James 1:27](#); [Matthew 6:1](#); [James 1:27](#); [Matthew 11:5](#); [Matthew 25:34-36](#); [Romans 10:15](#))

Small Group Questions, Study, Discussion & Prayer (*Do NOT use all the questions, pick a few to discuss; use your own material*).



Ice Breaker: (Introduction, 5 – 10 minutes)

1. Share one of your favorite vacation stories; what made it special? (Person, place or experience?)
2. Or, where would you like to go on vacation this year and why?
3. Or, if you had all the time and money required, where would you go on vacation and why?



Dig: (Bible Study, 20 – 25 minutes)

1. Jesus came into a lost and dark world with the light of the gospel message and the world has never been the same!
2. When traveling in the darkness of night and approaching a city with great lights, how does it make you feel?
3. As Christians we are often tempted to go about minding our own business, keep out of trouble and live a quiet & good life. While all this is fine, and even godly, we sometimes are tempted to stop there. How does Jesus' words, "**You are the light of the world.**" Help to fill out what it means to live the Christian life?
4. How might it help us to put off sin if we understand that we are the light of the world? (cf. [Romans 13:12](#))
5. Can we effectively be light if we are tied up and consumed by the darkness? Discuss.
6. Discuss the significance of "**pure religion**" and what it is that makes it pure. ([James 1:27](#))
7. What would the world look like if Jesus did all his work "in a closet" and out of the public's eye?
8. What would the church look like today if everything the church did was unseen and unheard of by others?
9. Why does Jesus say, "**let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds?**"
10. What was Jesus' usual mode of operation, ministering to needs first or preaching & teaching first? Discuss what kind of things he did and why he did them in said order. (cf. [Matthew 11:5](#))
11. Discuss the apparent contradiction between [Matthew 5:16](#) and [Matthew 6:1-4](#).



Application: (Living what we learn, 20 – 25 minutes)

1. Are we sometimes tempted to be or live darkness while we are supposed to be living as light?
2. Keeping in mind Matthew 5:16 & Matthew 6:1-4 when is it appropriate or not appropriate to do your deeds before men?
3. How does "living as light" with an eye unto God's glory help us overcome the temptation of sin?
4. Break your small group up into two teams and see which team can write down the most "good deeds" that can be seen by others in a manner that has potential to bring glory to God.
5. Bring the two teams together back into your regular life group setting and discuss the "good works" on your lists. How do your lists compare? How are your lists different?
6. Now discuss how your life group can live together Jesus' teaching about "**letting your light shine before men, that they (others) may see your good deeds and glorify God.**"



Prayer: (Seeking God's direction & blessing for our lives as we learn to be followers of Jesus, 5 – 10 minutes)

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NOTES:

1. Point
2. .
3. .

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(Matthew 5:14-16, NIV)

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:12, NIV)

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27, NIV)

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them." (Matthew 6:1, NIV)

"The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor." (Matthew 11:5, NIV)

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:34-36, NIV)

As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15, NIV)

(Scriptures: Romans 13:12; James 1:27; Matthew 6:1; James 1:27; Matthew 11:5; Matthew 25:34-36; Romans 10:15)