



GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

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LIVING OUT YOUR FAITH: Being a Light in the World

Matthew 5:14-16

November 18, 2025

Main Passage: Matthew 5:14-16

Focus: How to be a positive witness for Christ in everyday life.

Introduction

What does it mean to **live out your faith** in a world that often seems indifferent—or even hostile—to Christianity? Many believers struggle to balance standing firm in their beliefs with engaging with the world in a way that reflects Christ's love. A Small Group Bible Study is a great place to explore how we can live out our faith daily.

Jesus gives us a clear picture of what our role should be in **Matthew 5:14-16**:

"You are the light of the world. A town built 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 others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Light is essential—it illuminates, guides, and brings hope. In a Small Group Bible Study, we can encourage one another to shine brightly in a dark world, reflecting His truth and love through both our words and actions.

Teaching Content

1. You Are the Light of the World

Notice that Jesus doesn't say, *"Try to be the light."* He says, **"You are the light."** If you belong to Christ, His Spirit is within you, and your life **already has**

the potential to shine His light. But just like a lamp needs to be **placed in the right spot** to be effective, we must be intentional about how we live our faith.

Biblical Example: The Early Church in Acts

In Acts 2:42-47, the early Christians lived out their faith **boldly and visibly**. They were devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. **Their generosity and love drew others to Christ.**

Discussion Question: In what ways do you think your daily life reflects the light of Christ? Where do you struggle?

2. Light Cannot Be Hidden

Jesus compares believers to **a city on a hill**—something that cannot be hidden. Faith is not meant to be **private**; it is intended to be **seen and shared**.

However, many Christians hesitate to let their faith shine because of **fear, social pressure, or uncertainty** about how they will be received. But hiding our faith means **robbing others of the opportunity to see Christ through us**.

Real-Life Example: Workplace Faith

Imagine a Christian in a secular workplace. If they never speak about their faith or let it shape their actions, their coworkers **may never see a difference**. But if they live with integrity, kindness, and a Christ-like attitude, their **life becomes a testimony**—even without saying a word.

Discussion Question: Have you ever felt pressure to keep your faith hidden? How can we overcome that?

3. Let Your Light Shine Through Good Works

Jesus tells us to let our **good works** shine so that others may glorify God. This doesn't mean doing good things for attention, but rather, living in such a way that our actions point people to Christ.

Biblical Example: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

The Samaritan didn't just **talk about kindness**—he **demonstrated it** by helping

the wounded man. His actions were **the light in that moment**, and we are called to do the same.

Practical Ways to Shine Your Light:

- Show **kindness** under challenging situations.
- Serve others selflessly—whether at church, in the community, or at home.
- Stand for truth with **grace and humility**, not anger or judgment.
- Offer encouragement to those struggling with doubt or hardship.

Discussion Question: What are some practical ways we can shine our light in today's world?

Conclusion: Reflecting Christ in Daily Life

Jesus' command in Matthew 5:16 is **not optional**—it is our purpose. Our lives should be a reflection of **who He is**, leading others to glorify God.

Encouragement:

- **Shine boldly**—you never know who is watching.
 - **Shine consistently**—it's not about being perfect, but about being faithful.
 - **Shine for His glory**—not for recognition, but so others see Christ in you.
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Final Discussion Questions:

- What does being a light in today's world look like in practical, everyday life?
- How do our actions reflect Christ to others?
- What is one specific way you can be more intentional about shining your light this week?