

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) 14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

BC KIDS: Welcome to big church! Today you get to join your parents and see how we do church in this building while you are in Children’s church.

Here is a Tee-Shirt your teachers wear. What does it say?

So, what we have been learning in here it that Jesus is the light of the world, but you and I get to be the light too, when Jesus comes into our heart and his light begins to shine through us.

Matthew 5:14 (NLT) “You are the light of the world. EX: Let’s use a candle to illustrate this. Jesus is the light; he is the flame. Without the flame our candle is dark and useless. But when we receive Jesus as our savior his light lights our candle and we become the light too.

Now that you are the lights, would it make sense to hide or cover your light up? NO! We are to let our lights shine bright!

One Child – give them a flashlight and tell them to shine their light. Now add a second child.

Now what makes the most light? One child or two shining their lights? What if we gave a flashlight to all of you?

Give out flashlights, have the children stand and face the audience and have the entire church sing “This Little Light of Mine” as the kids shine their lights!

Jesus is the light of the world and, at the point of our salvation, Jesus fills us with the light of his life. Now, we too are the light to the world and we are to let our lights shine into a world lost in darkness. Therefore, when we all come together in unity our lights shines brighter together than anyone’s individual light shines. This is the beauty of Jesus’ Glorious Church.

Just like the lampstand in Exodus, our main job is to keep shining the light on the Bread of Life, which is Christ Jesus. We will use the light of the church to highlight the goodness of God and reveal God’s Son, so that the world can see, understand, and know Jesus.

Shine Like a City on a Hilltop!

Matthew 5:14 (NLT) “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. You can’t help it. You are shiny. When you are filled with the light of Jesus you will stand out! So, you might as well embrace it and begin to shine as bright as you can in two ways.

1) **Speak Light** Let your light shine verbally.

When Paul was abusively opposed by the Jews in Corinth, the Lord encouraged him in a vision.

Acts 18:9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. DO NOT BE SILENT!

EX: A builder I knew named William was working on a job site one day with another contractor and told “I’m Christian too, but I think Christianity is a personal thing and I don’t want to talk about it.”

You say, “Oh, I would never say anything like that!” But even if you don’t say it, do your actions reflect it?

- Do you take advantage of opportunities to talk about Jesus when they arise?
- In certain crowds, do you avoid bringing up the name of Jesus or speaking freely about your relationship with Him?
- When you see someone stumbling in darkness do you lead them to the light?

- When hearing of people’s life situations and problems, do you let them know that there is an answer, or do you choose to keep that information to yourself?
- Are you embarrassed to pray in public? Are you ashamed to share the Gospel with others or to even hang around those that do?

Open your mouth and share your story with others.

- **2 Corinthians 5:19 And he (God) has committed to us the message of reconciliation.**
- Jesus brought the message of light, **Acts 26:23 that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.** Now we are to carry that message of light.

2) Demonstrate Light Shine through our actions and deeds.

James 2:18 and 26 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Actions do speak louder than words!

- Your actions should shine the actions of Christ Jesus motivated by love for others.
- Your family should shine Christ Jesus.
- Your marriages should shine Christ Jesus.
- Your business dealings should shine Christ Jesus.

Shine through our gifts and purpose. (More in this later this year.)

Next Step: This week I will intentionally speak light and find three practical ways to demonstrate light to those around me.

Hide It Under a Bushel – No!”

Matthew 5:15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket.

Other versions say bowl or bushel as the song we sang with the BC Kids today. The point is that its something that blocks the light from the rest of the room. The light is still there, it’s just hidden.

Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.

Jesus is saying that it doesn’t make sense to light a lamp and then to hide it under a bushel. But that is what many Christians do with the light within them.

People are stumbling and falling all around us, yet we have the light covered up.

Now most people will say, “Oh I never do that! I would never take a bowl, basket, or bushel and hide my light!” We may not intentionally do that, but sometimes we do that without realizing it.

Obvious Bushels

Not Speaking Light / Not Demonstrating Light / Not Using Your Gifts and Purpose

Inadvertent Bushels

Traditions — There is nothing wrong with good or personal traditions, but when church traditions begin to hide the light something needs to change. *“This is the way we’ve always done it.”* But what if doing it the way you’ve always done it isn’t producing fruit? *“Well, I like it this way.”* Is it a matter of your likes or reaching people for Jesus?

- Music Styles – *“This is the kind of music I like.”* The story of my dad and the volume of our music.
- Personal traditions or ways of doing things. Hotdogs for the youth verses pizza.

Cultural Differences - The Gospel of Jesus never changes, but cultures do. Our message of light never changes, but the way we present that message must be adapted to the culture we are trying to reach.

EX: Hudson Taylor missionary to China two pics. His American pic and his Chinese pic / same person.
Stop talking about people and start talking to people. Hear their hurts, pain, hopes, dreams; be the light.

Dogmas - (Not scripturally based doctrine, but rather established opinions based on a point of view put forth as authoritative without adequate grounds.)

- Carmen and her husband unwelcomed in a church because they didn't have a KJV of the Bible.
- The man who wanted someone kicked out of the church for wearing a ball cap.
- Turning your back on people because they have a tattoo, blue hair, or don't dress or look like you.

Even when it comes to doctrine and scripture, we need to remember that we live in a new covenant, not the old. A new covenant of truth and grace, motivated by a love relationship with Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant —not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Works of Our Flesh - The bushel could be immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy. (More are listed in **Galatians 5:19-21**)

The Cares and Worries of Life - The Parable of the Sower - **Mark 4:18-19 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.**

- 1) The worries of life.
- 2) The deceitfulness of wealth.
- 3) The desire for other things.

Next Step: This week I will consider what my bushels are. I will consider my deeds and actions to make sure that I'm not hiding my light under a bushel.

The Results of Shining!

Matthew 5:15-16 (NLT) 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

I hear people say, *"Oh, I don't want to show off. I don't want people to see my good works, my gifts, my talents. I don't want to bring glory to myself."*

On the contrary, if your good works are truly motivated by God's love for people and you do all you do in the name of the Lord; your good works will bring glory to God.

Yes, when people see our good works, it will praise our heavenly Father rather than us.

But on the other hand, we must conclude that not letting your light shine will cause the Father not to be glorified. Think about it.

EX: Every parent can relate to this with their own children.

Oh, what joy I have when I teach my children how to act in a certain situation, do a certain task, or react in a certain way and I see them doing it!

On the contrary, if my child rebels and does everything his or her own way, it doesn't bring much joy or glory to me as the parent. "Did you see what Scott's kid did? I would expect much better out of them."

Better to hear people say, "Hey, you see that kid over there. That's Scott's kid. I know that his parents are proud of him. They've raised him right." The child's actions will bring honor or glory to the parents.

You and I have the light of Jesus within us. Hide my light under a bushel... No! I'm going to let it shine!