



14 ...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. 15 If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. 16 Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (MSG)

14 He (Jesus) gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds. Titus 2:14 (NLT)

Being the light means:

- Jesus has you on display so everyone can see.

14 ...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world... Matthew 5:14a (MSG)

The light in us allows others to see God around us.

- We are not the source of light, just the carriers.

7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

5 ...God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 1 John 1:5 (NLT)

12 ... "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 (NLT)

If there is anything good in me, it's God in me.

- The light brings change.

The light within us will change us.

Changes brought by the light:

- The light in me changes my identity.

14 You are the light of the world... Matthew 5:14 (NLT)

5 This is the message God has given us to pass on to you: that God is Light and in him is no darkness at all. 6 So if we say we are his friends but go on living in spiritual darkness and sin, we are lying. 7 But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ does, then we have wonderful fellowship and joy with each other, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin. 1 John 1:5-7 (TLB)

- The light in me changes how I live.

8 For though once your heart was full of darkness, now it is full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it! 9 Because of this light within you, you should do only what is good and right and true. Ephesians 5:8-9 (TLB)

- The light changes the heart in me.

Definition of heart:

The source of our morality.

The source of our desires.

The driving force behind our behavior.

9 The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked...Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

21 ...out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder,

22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.

Mark 7:21-22 (NLT)

23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

- The change in our heart affects the depth of our love.

26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)

OPEN 24/7 for God to change me:

- Accept that my current condition is not the goal.

4 ...God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change. Romans 2:4 (MSG)

- Ask God for a heart like His.

10 Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Psalm 51:10 (TLB)

- Chose every day to identify with Jesus.

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NIV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- What does it mean to you to be OPEN 24/7 for God to use you to love people?
- Explain what it means that we are the Light of the world?
- Discuss the points under the subheading: "Being the light means". How does the light in us allow others to see God?
- When God called you out of darkness how did it change you? How did it change how you live?
- As you live in the light, do you experience on-going changes? Explain.
- Talk about the Biblical definition of the heart.
- How does the change in our heart affect the depth of our love for God?
- Do you feel that you are open for God to continually change you? Is there anything you are fighting God about changing? Is there anything you are not allowing God to change?
- Why do we need a heart like God's?
- How do you chose to identify with Jesus every day? How do we die to ourselves so we can live for Christ?
- Finish this statement: Being Open 24/7 for God to change me is important because_____.

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