



"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. 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. 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 5:13-16 MSG

Grace

As believers, we are constantly being inundated with the grace of God, on behalf of Jesus Christ. This begins with God reaching out to us for salvation. John 3:16 specifies that God acted out His love for us by sending His Son to keep us from dying in our own sins. Beyond that, God continually makes us more and more like God. As children of God, we are not only rescued, we're honored and changed.

– From www.bibleref.com

Discussion/Journal

We are to embody the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ by our words and actions. This was Jesus' driving passion, his primary mission. We must find or cultivate within us this same desire to draw others to Christ both by our deeds and by our words.

- What's the last restaurant/recipe/book/movie/activity/experience you loved and could not stop talking about?
- What stops you from telling others about Jesus: fear, "it's not my job," or being thought of as a know-it-all.
- When you think about presence, persuasion, proclamation, power, and prayer – which fits your style best?
- How do you answer the three simple questions:
 - What was your life like before you were a Christian?
 - How did you become a Christian?
 - What difference has being a Christian made in your life?

Tool for the Week: Names

The story of the Samaritan Woman is told in John 4:1-42. In this story, Jesus crosses gender, cultural, and ethnic boundaries to show that he is the Savior not just of the Jews, but of "the world (4:42). The Samaritan woman understands who Jesus is, accepts his gift of new life, and proves it by leaving her water jar behind to go and tell others. She is the first one to receive a vision of Jesus as God, and she immediately shares her testimony with others so they can encounter Jesus for themselves.

- Practice sharing your story by answering the 3 simple questions listed above.
- On a small slip of paper, write down the name of someone you want to tell your faith story.
- Repeat.
- Keep or bundle the slips of paper together to place in your final Carry On Bag item as a reminder to pray for them, each individually by name, and for the opportunity to "go and tell" about Jesus!