

Project be
project be
believe | belong | become

BECOME
WEEK NINE

SALT AND LIGHT TO THE WORLD

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.

Matthew 5:14-16

Many of us will be familiar with the truth of Jesus as the light of the world. At Christmas time, the image of the light coming to earth is often used, as a reassuring and comforting message. However, how often do we recognise that this task of being the light of the world, has actually been passed on to us. When the opportunity to shine comes up, what if we don't shy away or shut our eyes in the hope that someone else will get picked? What if we found a boldness and courage rising that would say YES, PICK ME, I'll be the light, I will face the facts and I will act! What if it became such a natural way of living for us because we were so aware of the example Jesus set? What if the light we shine will cause many to fall in love with this irresistible Saviour we know and follow?

When has someone been like a light in your world?

FACTS

Jesus was not one to shy away from the facts. He recognised pain, poverty and injustice. He looked people straight in the eye with compassion, knowing that His mission was for them. It can be easy to make excuses to delay or ignore our calling and ministry: when the weather is right, when we have enough money in the bank account, when the kids have moved out, when we are commissioned by the elders and the pastors, when our friends join in, when we have training and experience. Somehow we have complicated the simple act of - action! If we want to become more like Jesus, we need to act like Jesus. He interrupted His day to become the answer to the problems and requests around Him.

In our normal everyday lives, there are always opportunities to make a difference for God. The voice of the Holy Spirit is there to help guide us along with a little nudge here and a little sign there. Don't wait for the trumpet call, don't wait for the perfect time, don't wait for a better day: just do it today.

Where do you need to trust God has sent you to be light?

ACT

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There are so many ways to act and shine a light. First, face the facts of the darkness around us, we live in a broken world: loneliness, addictions, abandonment, hopelessness, materialism, greed, sickness, suffering and sin. This is why the LIGHT has been sent! You! So how can you shine? Here's some ideas and there are lots more we can add:

- Be truthful and integrous in your workplace - be recognised as the one who does the right thing
- Serve those who are caring for others - if you see someone who is stretched, lessen their load
- Volunteer to serve in church - in every church there are so many things that need your practical or spiritual input
- Find out how you can brighten the world of the sick and lonely
- Give a young person in your world a call and listen to them - be genuinely interested in their hopes and dreams
- Pray for people - tell them you are praying for them, encourage them spiritually

What practical ways can you shine your light this week?

Let the word of God come alive in our lives! Let's be an example in kindness, service and patience everywhere we go. We can change the atmosphere with joy and peace. By sprinkling kindness and love, salting the earth, we are thawing away the layers of ice on people's hearts and preparing the way to sow a seed of faith. God's love is demonstrated through our everyday lives. He can use all these good deeds, He receives the glory and He draws others to Himself through the example and light we shed on our path.

Let's PARK together! Let's know that we are called to bring salt and light into our world and commit to taking action to shine this week.

Park **P.A.R.K**

PRAY

Make prayer a central part of your gathering

AFFIRM

Emphasise what God's word says and how we can build our lives on it

REMEMBER

Take a moment to remind ourselves of God's goodness and faithfulness

KNOW

Commit to what we have learned and how we can take these truths into our week
