



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Let Your Light Shine February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Matthew 5:13-16

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

1. Estimate the amount of money that American spend per year on Christmas Light displays, home lights, fireworks, etc. What does that tell you about light?  
*That number is astronomical! We use light for everything and we love light. It is good. It is helpful. It is pleasing!*

2. What is your favorite dish to season with a nice layer of salt?  
*You can't beat warm kettle corn, salty and sweet! But think about what eggs would taste like with no salt, or vegetables, or steak, or anything we eat. Life would be so bland without salt. Imagine it's even greater importance for keeping things from spoiling when there was no refrigeration.*

3. Why is it so unbelievable that Jesus calls us “salt and light” in this world?  
*Each of us knows what we are better than anyone. We know what we are like, and the last thing Jesus should call us is something good, like salt and light. But in his amazing grace, he transforms our identity and gives us a calling in the world. To be good and helpful to others, and lead them to Christ.*

4. Pure salt can't actually lose its saltiness, but most of the salt we have is mixed with other things. When we think about ourselves, what are some ways that our saltiness might start to diminish? How do we put our light under a bowl?

*One of the biggest criticisms the world has of Christians is that they don't act in line with what they say. They are not totally wrong. As sinners, we do things all the time that undermine the gospel that we believe. But these things damage our ability to be light to other people. Watch carefully what you say, and what you post, and the way you interact with those around you. The last thing we want to do is think we are shining greatly when our actions have put a bowl over our light!*

5. In James 2:17 it says, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” How does this demonstrate the vital nature of **living out** our callings as “salt and light?”  
*Christians produce good works. It's a part of what we do. We don't rely on them to get to heave, but we will naturally produce them. We will live out our callings as light and salt. A faith that doesn't do this is dead.*
6. Agree or Disagree: Personally, it is easier for me to let my light shine in this world in other ways than it is to verbally share my faith with someone.

I think there are very few people in the world for whom their answer is Disagree. If you have one in your group that says it's easy for them to verbally share their faith, **write down their name and number and send it to Pastor Priewe immediately.** Recognize that letting our light shine can take all kinds of shapes and forms, but ultimately at some point we want to give a clear witness to the truth we believe. Maybe that looks like bringing your friend to church, where they will hear it proclaimed in the service!

7. Think of one "Friend Who Needs Jesus" you have and one specific thing you could do to let your personal light shine to him or her in the coming week.

You have a great advantage in your circles of people. As of yet, I've been trying to get to know Mount Olive people and keep up with everything. I don't know many unchurched people at all in Appleton, except those who I meet through my role as Pastor. I need to find ways to connect myself to the community. But you can greatly help me by introducing me to your friends or whomever! You can tell anyone, that you have a pastor who will come and visit!

8. We certainly have room for growth and encouragement in our personal witnessing. Share a "light shining" story that might have felt to you like a total flop or one that seemed like it had great results.

One of the first worship follow up visits I made in Appleton, when I rang the doorbell, there was an angry herd of dogs I feared my come right through the door! A woman came to the living room window instead of the door, so as to not let the dogs out. Needless to say we were not able to communicate much. I left feeling like that was a total flop. Dogs!!! She has since been through Bible 101 and is close to membership!

9. One of the hardest things to do is make the transition from normal chit-chat to personal witnessing. Is there a particular way of "turning the conversation" that you have found that you could share with the group?

I wish I was an expert on this but I'm not! Our synod evangelism site has some great articles to help think about this. Usually it is the boldness to ask a question that you think will lead to a place you can share something. But it also takes careful listening. Where is this person's hurt? Where is there cry for help? Where can I share something that will help.

<https://wels.net/evangelism-lessons-from-the-savior-account-of-the-rich-young-man-part-2/>