**“The Walk”**

**Week 5: Share**

****

In week #1, we learned to **worship & praise** God; as individuals and as a community.

In week #2, we studied **listening and paying attention** to God’s Word; individually and in group study.

In week #3, we were asked to **serve** with your church family and practice random acts of kindness.

In week #4, we were asked to **give** generously to our church and to others.

* Since the last session, how have you been generous toward others (time, talent or treasure)?
* Since the last session have you seen opportunities to extend extraordinary generosity in the past week?
* How has the practice of the spiritual discipline of generosity impacted your daily walk with God?

**The topic for today is:**

* **Consider what it means to be a witness for Christ.**
* **Reflect on why you are a follower of Christ**
* **Affirm the importance of being a light for Christ in the world.**

**Opening Prayer**

Loving and Gracious Go, we thank you for your presence in our lives. We thank you for the people who have shared your love and generosity with us, who have made your faithful presence known to us. We hear your call to be faithful witnesses and followers of Jesus. We look to you for guidance, strength, and courage as we answer that call. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

**Video & Discussion: Consider these questions as you view the video**

* In the video, Adam Hamilton describes sharing our faith as giving away what’s been given to us. Who are the people responsible for your faith, and how did they witness to you?
* Hamilton observes that we naturally share what is important to us or what we see as good and positive. What is it about your faith that you feel driven to share with others?
* Do you tend to think of witnessing more as a one-time interaction, or as a long-term relationship?
* Most of us find it easier to think about doing good works and letting those actions speak for us. Why is it important to share our faith with words too?

# Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV):

**14**“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**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. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

* What is Jesus’ strategy for evangelism?
* Why is it important for people of faith to work together in community to be the light of Christ in the world?
* Why is it important for followers of Jesus to also be “light” as individuals?

# Matthew 28:19-20

**19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**\*\* Shine Jesus Shine\*\***

So, how do I shine my light?

* **Testify**: An interesting thing happens when we talk about something we love, enjoy or find meaningful. It is in giving away our faith, sharing it with others, that our faith and our spiritual passion grow.
* **The power of reviews**: It has never been easier to share our faith with more people today. With the power of social media, we can post our feelings about our recent visit to church, mission trip, scripture. Most people who choose to follow Jesus do so because of the positive witness of a fellow Christian.
* **Follow Jesus’ Passion**: Many people today, as in Jesus’ time, are turned off by organize religion. Jesus had compassion for those who were disconnected from God. If this was Jesus’ mission, it should also be our mission.
* **Share**: Why are you a Christian? How did you come to faith? If you are a Christian it is because faith was shared with you by someone.
  + Are there people who could point to you as the reason they are a follower of Christ today? Did you invite them to church, bible study, youth group or Sunday school? Did you pray for them or with them when they were in need? If not, now is the time to start.
  + Let your light shine on Beulah! What are your favorite parts of our church (besides our opportunity to worship), our minister, our services, our fellowship, our music, etc.? What do you hope your church would be known for in your community; then speak to it.

 

**Pray 5 times a day Pray together (church)**

**Read 5 Bible verses a day Group Bible Study**

**Do 5 Acts of Kindness this Week Serve with your church family**

**Do 5 acts of extraordinary generosity Give corporately (tithes & offerings)**

**Share your faith with 5 people this year Shine as a congregation; invite 5 people to church this year.**

These people may be your family, your children, your grandchildren, your parents, your spouse, your next-door neighbors, or co-workers. Over the next 12 months, pray for them, let your light shine with your good deeds, share your faith story with them, invite them to church.

You can start sharing your faith on social media. You can post pictures of your service, comments about your faith, insights gained in worship.

Ask God to use you, that your name might appear on someone’s list years from now, as the person who shared your faith.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**  Lord, thank You for Your love for us. Thank You for the people you brought into my life who brought me to you. Thank You for giving them the courage to live their faith in such a way that I saw you through them. Bless them for the blessing they have been to me. Use me, Lord, as you used them. Let me be your witness every day. Let me be a fisher who draws people to you. Let me be someone who allows others to see a reflection of you. Amen