

CALLED TO BE LIGHTS WHERE GOD PLANTS US
(Reaching our Students of our City)
LG Topic #36

Welcome: (15 min.)

Probably everybody has experienced time when you were literally “in the dark”.

- Have people share about an incident when: (examples)
 - When the power went out and there was no light in the house
 - When you were in the wilderness and you couldn't find your way
 - When you couldn't find the light switch when the building was pitch dark
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- Talk about when you found the light and how much you loved having a light go on

Worship: (15 min.)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group's attention to **the idea that we are lights in the world**. You could use music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms that hear God speaking to us about how Jesus is our light.

Some Psalms might be helpful – Ps. 119: 105; Psalm 27 (most of the Psalm – it's a gooder!), Isaiah 42:6-7

Word: (45 min.)

Text: Matt. 5:14-16

We Are Called to be Lights in a Dark World:

First Picture: A City on a Hill

- It seems that it's not a question. Jesus states it as a fact. – “You are the light of the world.”
- If there is a city that's on a hill, you can't avoid seeing it. It lives in a dark situation – every night.

Second Picture: A House that is lighted by a lamp

- You put a lamp on a stand to shed lots of light – lights up the whole house
- Doesn't make sense to cover the lamp with a bowl. You expect the lamp to do its job -- shine its light.

Jesus makes simple applications for us: In the same way (from his two pictures) three things can happen:

- Let your light shine in front of people
- When you do that, they will see your good deeds
- When they see your good deeds, our Father in heaven will get the praise.

The Word Applied:

- Why do you think Jesus uses two pictures?
- How might these two pictures have meaning for us? (Remember that you are looking for principles)
- Can you think of situations that Christians “put their light under a bowl?”
- Can you think of situations where praise came to the Heavenly Father – by a community of faith, or individuals?

Witness: (15 minutes)

- The message was speaking specifically to shine our lights in the education setting. How can we be a light to the students of our city?