

Vintage Community Discussion Guide | September 14th, 2025

You are the Light of the World - Pastor Ger Jones

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

Sermon Recap:

- In his sermon, Pastor Ger Jones focused on Jesus' declaration in Matthew 5:14-16: **"You are the light of the world."**
 - He emphasized that **this is a statement of our identity as the church community**, not a suggestion of what we should try to be.
 - While Jesus is the ultimate light, we are the light of the world because His presence now resides within us. **We are the tabernacle out of which the light shines.**
- Jesus used the metaphors of a city on a hill and a lamp on a stand to show the absurdity of a follower of His living a hidden life. The entire purpose of a city on a hill is to be seen, just as a lamp's function is to give light.
 - **Therefore, a believer's life is meant to be a visible, unashamed witness to God's love and goodness in the world.**
- **Our light is expressed through "good deeds,"** which are attractive and winsome, reflecting the way of Jesus, rather than anger or judgment.
- The ultimate goal of our light is not to draw attention to ourselves but to act as a spotlight that points others to God, so that they may **"glorify your Father in heaven."**
 - **The Christian life is not about making much of ourselves** but about pointing to the one who is the ultimate source of light and truth.
 - **Our obedience and good deeds, therefore, are an act of worship**, turning the hearts of others not to us, but to the God who is worthy of all praise

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Ger said that while Jesus is the light of the world, we are also called to be the light of the world. How do you understand this paradox, and what does it mean for your identity as a follower of Jesus?
2. The sermon distinguished between "good deeds" and "good doctrine." Why is it so important for our lives to be defined by deeds that are winsome and attractive, rather than just our beliefs?

3. Ger challenged us to resist a "fleshly response" and to pause and ask the Holy Spirit, "What does it mean for me to be light right now?" What would a "light" response have looked like in a recent difficult situation you faced?
4. Ger explained the metaphor of a "city on a hill" and a "lamp on a stand" shows that our light is meant to be visible. What is one area of your life or a specific relationship where you feel like you are hiding your light, and what is a small step you can take to be more visible this week?
5. The sermon referenced Jesus' teaching to "love your enemies" as a way of bringing light into the darkness. How can we, as a church community, collectively respond to a divisive cultural issue with love, rather than angry rhetoric?

Pray: Close your group time by praying for one another. You may want to pray as one group or break into smaller groups to pray. Either way is fine. As you pray, take time to:

1. **Listen** - what have you become aware of in this lesson and discussion time that God wants to talk to you about? Take time to sit quietly and listen to the Holy Spirit.
2. **Offer** - whatever has been shown to you, now is the time to surrender your fears, hopes, and questions to God.
3. **Receive** - as we surrender our fears, hopes, and questions to God, He promises to give us His grace, forgiveness, and peace because of His unfailing love for us.

Spiritual Practice: Kingdom Improv

Inspired by the sermon's call to "do kingdom improv," this week's spiritual practice is about intentionally responding to situations as the light of Christ.

- **Acknowledge:** Take a moment to identify a specific situation or conversation you expect to have this week where you feel a "fleshly response" might be your default.
- **Pause & Pray:** Commit to a small pause before you respond. In that moment, take a breath and quietly pray, "Jesus, what does it mean for me to be light right now?"
- **Act:** Choose a tangible action that demonstrates the "way of Jesus" in that situation. This could be as simple as listening instead of reacting, offering a word of grace, or choosing to forgive instead of holding a grudge. The goal is to move from theory to practice, trusting that the Holy Spirit will empower you to shine His light in that moment.