



# SUMMERFEST

## Week 5

### BREAKING THE ICE

What is the best story anyone has ever shared with you?

Do you have a great story that you love to share with others?

### MAIN CONTENT

David Nasser spoke to us this week about Matthew 5:14-16. In that passage, Jesus speaks not only to the disciples, but to us as the Church today! David started off by asking the question “Why” we do what we do as Christians (i.e. gather at church, worship Jesus, go and serve others here and around the world, etc.) and showed us how this scripture helps answer that question.

David pointed out that when we read Matthew 5:14-16, several questions are asked and answered: Who are we? The light of the world. What do we do? We shine. Why do we do it? That God would get glory.

But first, we need to understand that we are not always the light in this passage. We are also a part of the darkness in the world - we are part of the problem. You may be an evil dictator, or you may be a kind, saintly person (or likely somewhere in between); but, we’ve all contributed in some ways to the darkness in this world, whether we meant to or not.

1. It’s easy to see how others have contributed to darkness in this world, but can you recognize how you have done that as well?

It’s not all bad news though... the good news is that once Jesus comes into your life, then His light shines through you! You go from darkness to light, and that’s how you become the “light” in Matthew 5:14-16.

2. Because we can't be "the light of the world" without Jesus in our lives, the first and most important question we must ask ourselves is whether Jesus is in our lives. Have you personally repented of sin, believed in Jesus and decided to follow Him?

3. If you have decided to follow Jesus, then what exactly is the "light" that you shine before others?

David also explained what the purpose of the Church is. He first noted that "the purpose of the Church is not ministry" - it's not for the maintenance or sanctification of the saints, though those are wonderful things. The ultimate purpose of the Church is to be on mission for those that don't have the light of the world.

4. How does Jesus ask us in Matthew 5:14-16 to be about His mission of bringing people to faith in Him?

5. When you came to faith in Jesus, did someone shine their light to you? How can you shine your light and do the same for others?

Jesus tells us the reason we shine our light to others is so that our good deeds might glorify our Father in heaven. However, it's important to remember that the intent of others seeing our "good deeds" is not so that we are glorified. In fact, in the very next chapter Jesus will say "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them." (Matt 6:1)

6. How can we guard against trying to glorify ourselves through good works, and instead make sure God is the one who is glorified through them?

If the ultimate purpose of the Church is to be on mission, then the ultimate purpose of mission is not for its own sake, but for the worship of God. God is glorified when people see His light shining through us and because of that, they worship Him. And the amazing thing about this mission is that we all get to be a part of it!

7. Everyone is commissioned to shine God's light to others, but all of us are created uniquely - in what ways has God gifted or positioned you specifically to shine light to those around you?

8. What typically keeps you from shining light or sharing the gospel with others?

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, forgive us for the times that we have hidden the light you've given us. Lord Jesus, will you teach us how to shine that light in front of others. Holy Spirit, show us the ways that you have uniquely gifted or positioned us to shine your light to others, that they might glorify You. Amen.

## ACTION STEP

- Spend 15 minutes in prayer, asking God what ways He would like you to shine light to others, in order to bring the gospel to others. Right down as many that come to mind.
- Make time this week to pick at least one of those things on your list and then go do it! Let others in your group know how it goes.