God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Let Your Light Shine

Speaker: Wanda Gardner

Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV).

Highlighted Scripture

- **Matthew 5:16 (KJV)**

  "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

  Jesus calls His followers to live in ways that direct attention to the Father. Wanda's campground outreach paired practical kindness with the message of God's love. The aim is God's glory, not our own recognition.

- **Mark 3:1-5 (KJV, verse 5)**

  "And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other."

  Jesus healed a man's withered hand on the Sabbath while others watched for a reason to accuse Him. His compassion challenges us to notice a person's need rather than let a dispute harden our hearts.

- **John 8:3-11 (KJV, verse 11)**

  "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

  When the woman's accusers brought her to Jesus, He exposed their hypocrisy and treated her with mercy. His grace did not dismiss sin; it called her toward a changed life. We can uphold truth without treating people with contempt.

- **Luke 22:49-51 (KJV, verse 51)**

  "And he touched his ear, and healed him."

  During His arrest, Jesus healed the high priest's servant after a disciple struck him. Even in a hostile moment, Jesus refused to answer injury with more injury.

- **Luke 23:34 (KJV)**

  "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

  From the cross, Jesus prayed for those involved in His crucifixion. His example invites us to pray for people who oppose us and to entrust judgment to God.

- **Romans 14:16 (KJV)**

  "Let not then your good be evil spoken of:"

  Paul addresses disagreements among believers about food and conscience. He calls them to exercise freedom with love, pursuing peace rather than causing another person to stumble. Courage to do good belongs alongside humility and care for others.

Discussion Questions

- Wanda describes 400 small opportunities to communicate God's love. What ordinary opportunity to show kindness might you overlook because it seems too small?
- In Matthew 5:16, who should receive the glory for our good works? How can that purpose shape the way we serve or talk about serving?
- Which of Jesus' responses in the four accounts most challenges the way you react to criticism or opposition? What would following His example look like in a current situation?
- Wanda asks us to see the person beyond appearances, circumstances and mistakes. Who might you understand differently if you listened before forming a judgment?
- How can you remain willing to do good when misunderstood while also receiving wise correction and respecting another person's conscience?

Reflection Challenge

This week, notice one person you might normally pass by or disagree with. Pray for that person, learn something about their need, and offer one practical act of kindness without seeking recognition or a particular response.

Ask yourself:

- Am I seeing a person to love, or only an opinion, appearance or mistake that bothers me?
- Is my desire to serve shaped more by God's glory or by how others will view me?
- When someone disagrees with me, do I become defensive before considering what love requires?
- What small, faithful action is already within my reach?

Try this:

- Read the six passages above slowly. Write down one action of Jesus that you want to practice.
- Listen to someone with whom you differ. Ask a sincere question and let them finish before responding.
- Offer a specific kindness: help with a task, send encouragement, or meet a practical need. Share the reason for your hope with gentleness when the opportunity is welcome.
- At the end of the week, reflect on what God taught you. Give thanks for the opportunity to serve even if you cannot see the outcome.

Remember

- Let your light point people to the Father.
- Small acts of kindness can open a door for the message of God's love.
- See the person, not only the disagreement or outward appearance.

- Jesus' mercy calls people toward truth and changed lives.
- Do good with courage, humility and care for another person's conscience.
- Plant faithfully and trust God with results you cannot measure.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving people whose needs and stories we often overlook. Open our eyes to the person in front of us. Forgive our pride, quick judgments and desire to be praised. Help us reflect Jesus through kindness, truthful words and patient listening.

Give us courage to do good when we are misunderstood, humility to receive correction, and wisdom to care for others without compromising Your truth. Show us one small act of love we can offer today, and help us trust You with the outcome.

In Jesus' name, Amen.