

## Leadership Tip!

Look for opportunities to build up others influence. It can start with a Bible verse or just a helping hand.

## Vision Sunday “Influence”

Influence – “the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself”.

### STARTER QUESTIONS:

Describe a person who has influenced you spiritually in a good or bad way; no names, just a description.

### MAIN IDEA:

Everyone has the capacity to influence the people around them. The problem is most of the time we have no idea that we are doing it.

*“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16 (NIV)*

What Jesus is asking us to do is pretty straight forward; have an influence on the people around you, to the point these people thank God for what you do.

### Do you think this is easier said than done? Why?

Most of the time when people look at the above verse and think its is “just too hard for them”, it is because they are focusing in on the last part of the verse “- see your good deed and glorify your Father in heaven.”

### What is Jesus is focused on?

When we understand that it starts with our own light (our lives), we get a new perspective on what Jesus is saying. The Apostle Peter put it this way:

*“Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.”*

1 Peter 2:12 (NLT)

Our influence in this world is to start with how the world sees us living out our lives.

**Take a minute to think about this question: Can the world tell if you are a Christ follower?**

It is a fair question for any Christ follower that needs to be asked continuously to do what Jesus is asking us to do.

Questions like; what is fueling my light today? Is it something you saw on Facebook, or something you read in the Bible?

Who in my life makes my light shine brighter? Who in my life puts a shade over my light?

Do I see a dark place in my daily life that needs my light?

It can seem a bit overwhelming, but it starts and is strengthened by three simple things.

**Prayer.**

**Reading your Bible.**

**And hanging out with other Christ Followers.**

Also, it is not about the volume of these things, it about how consistent you are in doing them. Influence is sustained by consistence.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

It is ok to be transparent in your daily walk about how you influence others. Often time, we simply don't know how much we influence those around us. The important thing is that your influence is not transparent to the world.

*“As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene....No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life.”*

*Albert Einstein, scientist*

**Vision Sunday**  
January 28, 2018

*“The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.”*

John 1:35-39 (NIV)

**Who has influenced you spiritually?**

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*The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.” John 1:40 (NIV)*

**“Found” people find people!**

Andrew was always finding people and bringing them to Jesus.

- A young \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:8)
- Some Greek \_\_\_\_\_ (John 12:22)

**Who will be your “ONE” in 2018?**

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