

# Discussion Questions



## Sermon Recap

Pastor Peter explored Jesus' call for believers to be "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14-16). Key points included:

- We ARE light because of Jesus, not through our own efforts
- Light must be plugged in (connected to Christ) to shine
- Technology and distractions can dim our light
- We shine through character and good works that point to God
- The goal is to glorify God, not ourselves

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Light

1. **Read Matthew 5:14-16 together.** What stands out to you about Jesus saying "you ARE the light" rather than "you should try to be light"? How does this change your perspective?
2. Pastor Peter used the illustration of an unplugged light bulb. What does it mean practically to be "plugged in" to Jesus? What are signs that someone might be running on their own power (batteries) instead?

### Identifying the Dimmers

3. The sermon mentioned several things that can dim our light: unconfessed sin, busyness, hypocrisy, doubt, spiritual apathy, and technology addiction. Which of these resonates most with your current season of life? Why?

4. **Technology & Dopamine:** How has technology affected your spiritual life—both positively and negatively? Do you agree that it's one of the greatest "dimmers" in our generation? Why or why not?
5. Pastor Peter shared his family's approach to technology with their children. What boundaries (if any) have you set around technology? What challenges do you face in this area?

## Shining Through Character

6. **Read John 13:34-35.** Jesus says people will know we're His disciples by our love. Why do you think love is more important than knowledge, correct doctrine, or even "good works" done without love?
7. The sermon listed several ways we shine: integrity, kindness without expecting praise, humility, honesty, and patience. Which of these is easiest for you? Which is most challenging?
8. Pastor Peter shared his landscaping job story where coworkers immediately identified him as a Christian. What do you think they saw in him? When has your faith been obvious to others without you saying anything?

## Dealing with Darkness

9. The sermon mentioned that many Christians have become angry and stressed, especially since COVID. How do you maintain hope and joy without being naive about real problems in the world?
10. **"The darker the world, the brighter the light shines."** What does this statement mean to you? How can we be passionate about God's work without being consumed by fear of what's happening in culture or government?

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## Key Takeaways

Have group members share which of these truths they most need to remember this week:

- ✨ **We are light because of Jesus, not our own effort**
- 🔌 **Being plugged into Christ through prayer, Scripture, and surrender is essential**
- 📱 **Technology can be a major distraction from real life and spiritual depth**
- ❤️ **Love is the primary way people recognize Christ in us**
- 🕯️ **Good works should point to God, not to ourselves**
- 🌍 **Our identity is in Christ, not in worldly circumstances**
- 🙏 **Shining is worship—it's how we glorify our Father in heaven**

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## Practical Application

### Personal Reflection:

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to ask themselves:

- *What is dimming my light right now?*
- *Am I running on my own power or am I plugged into Jesus?*
- *Where is God calling me to shine more brightly this week?*

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE action step to implement this week:

#### Option 1: Technology Audit

- Track your screen time this week
- Identify one app or habit that's stealing your attention from God and others

- Replace 15 minutes of screen time daily with prayer, Bible reading, or face-to-face conversation

### **Option 2: Character Focus**

- Choose one character trait from the sermon (integrity, kindness, humility, honesty, patience)
- Ask God to help you shine in this area
- Look for three specific opportunities to practice it this week

### **Option 3: Confession & Connection**

- Confess any unconfessed sin that's been dimming your light
- Commit to daily "plugging in" through prayer and Scripture
- Find an accountability partner to check in with

### **Option 4: Love in Action**

- Identify someone who needs to see Christ's love through you
- Perform one "good work" this week that points them to God
- Do it without expecting recognition or praise

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## **Closing Discussion**

**Final Question:** How would your workplace, neighborhood, or family be different if you shined brighter this week? What specific change might others notice?