



Pastor James Greer
James@jcpineville.com
www.jcpineville.com



Christian – Session 4

Showing Up

Discussion Questions

1. The first Christians embraced the words of Jesus with utter seriousness and ended up changing the world. How much potential for the same kind of change do you see in our world today?

2. What positive influence have followers of Jesus had on our culture in the past or present?

3. In what ways do you wish the followers of Jesus had a stronger influence on our culture?

4. How do followers of Jesus view our world differently than other people? What tension does this create?

5. If followers of Jesus were “salt” and “light” in our world, how could that help to overcome the differences between them and those who don’t follow Jesus?

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6. What convinces you that all human beings have great worth to God?

Mileposts:

- Jesus described His followers with two distinctive word pictures: “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” Wherever you are, Jesus has you there to be this kind of influence.
- Salt is a preservative. Without the proper influence of Jesus followers, the world’s culture will decay.
- Light shows the way. Jesus calls his followers to have such a shining influence through our good deeds that it causes others to give credit to God.

Moving Forward:

What does being a “light” in this world mean to you personally? How has God equipped you and prepared you for this? Which areas of darkness do you believe he wants you to shine His light on?

Changing Your Mind

In these words, Jesus leads us forward into our shining influence in this world, an influence that shows others the way and draws them to Him:

*Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify you Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

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Preparation for Session 5:

To help you prepare for Session 5, use these suggested devotions during the week leading up to your small group meeting.

Day 1

In the first chapter of the gospel of John reflect on the teaching about Jesus (“the Word”) in verses 14, 16, and 17. If you had never heard of Jesus, what would you learn about Him from these verses? What further questions would you have?

Day 2

Look over the interesting encounter Jesus had with a Samaritan woman in John 4:1-45. What evidence do you see here that Jesus was “full of grace and truth,” as expressed in John 1:14?

Day 3

Move today in your reading to John 8:1-11, where Jesus encounters another woman. Again, what evidence do you find here that Jesus was “full of grace and truth”?

Day 4

Reflect today on what happens in the life of Jesus in Mark 2:13-17. As Jesus relates to Levi (also known as Matthew) and his friends, what further evidence do you find that Jesus was “full of grace and truth”?

Day 5

Search again for evidence that Jesus was “full of grace and truth,” this time by reading about the day of Jesus’ crucifixion in Matthew 23:32-43. What do we learn from the way Jesus related to the two criminals being executed on both sides of Him?