



SHINE Devotional

Week 2 – Lesson 1

Light

Scripture reading Matthew 5:14-16

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Darkness can be terrifying. When I was a sophomore in college, I was traveling to a little town called Brookville, Pennsylvania. I was scheduling a youth rally at the church where my wife grew up. I had a friend traveling to Pennsylvania and I caught a ride with him. He was going to drop me off in the town, Kittanning. Kittanning is about 60 miles from Brookville. I planned to hitchhike from Kittanning to Brookville. When he dropped me off, it was dark though there were lights throughout the city. A gentleman picked me up and drove me to the outskirts of the city, where a fork in the road separated our ways. He dropped me off, and as I stood there under one light pole, I thought it could not get darker than it was. However, it did. The next gentleman who picked me up took me way out into the country until the next fork in the road. He was going to the right, and I was going to the left. The place where he dropped me off, I could not see my hand in front of my face. I could not see the stars because a snow storm had come in. I could not even tell whether I was standing on the road or on the side. Though I was a young college man and had confidence in Christ, the darkness was frightening.

When I think of that, I think of the darkness that this world lives in. People are frightened. They don't know why they are here, where they came from, or where they are going. You and I carry the light of Jesus Christ in our lives. We know where we came from, we were created by God. We know why we are here, we are to represent God. We know where we are going because we put our faith and trust in the God of the Bible. We are children of light and God our Savior, Jesus Christ, has commanded us to let our light shine before men that they might see our good works.

God wants us the people in this world to see Jesus in you. Determine to be the light God wants you to be, and you will SHINE.



SHINE Devotional

Week 2 – Lesson 2

Share

Scripture reading 1 John 3:16-18

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

All around us there are people with needs: physical, social, and spiritual. If I am going to shine for Jesus, I must be one who is willing to share. Years ago, a friend of mine, Steve Meisner and I were going door to door in a neighborhood inviting people to church. Steve and I, noticed a man standing in his garage. We walked up to him and handed him an invitation. When he received the invitation, he responded, “You know, I think I am an Agnostic. I don’t understand God. I want to know more about Him. In fact, I was just telling Him I would like to more about Him.” My response was, “Then, we are your answer to prayer. God has given us His Word so that we can know about Him. Let me share with you what He says about how you can know you are going to heaven.” This man had a spiritual need, and God sent Steve and I to share with Him how he could have that need met.

There are people around us who have financial needs. Years ago, I realized I could not personally meet the needs of everyone with whom I came in contact. However I realized, if I gave to my local church, I could help many through giving to that church on a regular basis. I made a commitment to tithe on a regular basis to share with others what God had given to us.

The Bible teaches us that God shared His Son with us. We need to share His Son with everyone we come in contact with. We do that by sharing our resources, time, possessions, homes, and lives. When we learn to share the love that God has given us, we will learn to SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 2 – Lesson 3

Help!



Scripture reading Romans 16:3 & 9

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:” “Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.”

The Acts of the Apostles is a fascinating Book in the Bible. It tells us how God worked through the Apostles to spread the Gospel and to build churches throughout the then known world. Approximately eighteen chapters of the Books of Acts deal with the life, conversion, and mission trips of the Apostle Paul. Many messages are preached about his life and writings. Humanly speaking, the Apostle Paul could not have done all that he did without the help of many trusted friends and companions. When we get to the end of Romans, Paul lists many of his friends by name. Priscilla, Aquila, and Urbane are three of his friends who he refers to as helpers in Christ.

Everyone on this planet needs help. From the time you were born to the time you die, if you are to succeed, you need help. Jesus knew we were inadequate, and sent a helper named the Holy Spirit to come and live inside of us. Any church that ever succeeds will be a church that is filled with helpers. My point is very simply that people need your help. Someone who is failing does not need your criticism; they need your help. Someone who is attempting to do a work for God does not need you to hold them back; they need your help. Someone who is facing trouble does not need you to observe; they need you to help. Because of the rebellion in our culture, we have troubled children, teenagers, and adults all around us. You and I, as Christians, should not stand back and criticize the culture. You and I can determine through prayer, God’s grace, and mercy to reach out and help those around us. When we determine to be helpers instead of critics, then we will SHINE.



SHINE Devotional

Week 2 – Lesson 4

Invite

Scripture reading Luke 14:23

“And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”

God wants you to invite people to come to His house, which is the local New Testament church. There are many ways that you can be involved in inviting people to church. My favorite way is to use gospel tracts. I want to share with you today how you can use gospel tracts effectively.

1. Get gospel tracts from your church. Make sure they have your church address and information. If your church does not have gospel tracts, ask your pastor to get gospel tracts with your church information on it to be passed out.
2. Whenever you have a conversation with anyone who is not a member of your church, ask, “May I give you something really good to read?” Then hand them a gospel tract.
3. Leave gospel tracts at restaurants along with a generous tip.
4. Take gospel tracts door to door in your neighborhood. If you feel uncomfortable knocking on the door, just leave it on the door.
5. Leave gospel tracts in public restrooms.
6. Leave gospel tracts in hospitals and doctors’ offices.
7. Put gospel tracts in the bills you mail.
8. When you send out Christmas cards, send gospel tracts with the Christmas cards.
9. When you leave the store, hand the clerk a gospel tract and thank them for their service.
10. Anytime your church has a special event, get those special event flyers. If they don’t have the Gospel on them, insert a gospel tract in them and invite people to the event.

Your local church is to be a gospel lighthouse. It is to shine the light of the Gospel throughout your community. You can help it shine by inviting others to come. When you do, your life will SHINE for Christ.



SHINE Devotional

Week 2 – Lesson 5

Navigate

Scripture reading Job 5:6-7 & 14:1

“Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.” “Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

Jerry Falwell used to say, “You are either in trouble, just getting out of trouble, or about to head into trouble.” For every good day in life, you will have about three bad days. The secret to success in life is very simply learning how to navigate through life’s obstacles. There are people who allow detours in life to keep them from ever reaching their destination. Life will be filled with detours. I love the way the Apostle Paul looked at life. He said, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* (Romans 8:28).

My friend was heading to Sea World in Southern California. His trip had been delayed by a week and cut short by a day. Yet, God worked it out for him to take his entire family down to Southern California. The day came to go to Sea World. He got off early in order to spend the entire day as a family together. However, the minutes kept flying by, and the minutes turned to hours. They were supposed to arrive at 9:00, but now it was 11:00. On the way to Sea World they missed the exit and were detoured. They missed the exit a second time and then a third. They finally arrived at their destination by 12:00. When they got out of the car, somewhat upset because of all the delays, my friends overheard a woman say to her husband, “I don’t know what you are going to do with those tickets. Give them to them. They have a big family.” The man walked over to my friend and asked him if he could use free tickets. My friend took them with joy and then with a humble heart thanked God for all the delays. He had navigated through the obstacles and had come out a winner.

God has a plan for your life. Satan has many obstacles that he will throw your way. Some obstacles you face will be because of the limitations that a sinful world throws at you. If you determine you are here to accomplish what God wants you to do, you can navigate through those obstacles. You will SHINE as a light for Jesus.

SHINE Devotional

Week 2 – Lesson 6



Engage

Scripture reading Acts 1

7:22-23

“Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”

With this statement, Paul preached the Gospel to a culture that was totally lacking any understanding of Bible truth. He met them where they were and took them to the feet of Jesus. Over the last several decades, our culture has steadily walked away from the teaching of the Word of God. Liberal theology, secular humanism, and Darwinian evolution, combined with an immoral, godless Hollywood industry have given rise to an anti-god and unstable culture that has very little or no direction for life.

You and I are called of God to engage this culture, not criticize it. We are to shine as light in the midst of the darkness that surrounds us in our culture. If we do not engage our culture, things will get steadily worse not just for those involved in the world, but also for those who will be affected by the culture. We must not allow the culture to dictate our lifestyles, but we must understand it. We must love those who are affected by it. We must share God's truth with them. We must help them understand. We must invite them to church. We must navigate through this culture, and we must engage them with every opportunity we have.

Let us not be combative but compassionate. Jesus established the local church to shine as a lighthouse in a dark culture. As a member of His church, I encourage you to SHINE.