**Connect Study - Let It Shine**

Matt 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

1. It’s time to shine

Jesus is the light of the world. In the Old Testament, during the time of Moses, God instructed the children of Israel to build a tabernacle as a pattern of worship. One of the articles in the tabernacle is the lampstand. The lampstand has one stem which speaks of being one in Jesus. It has 7 branches, which speaks of the seven-fold Spirit of God. The nine fruit represents the nine fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5) and the nine flowers speak of the nine charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12). In the Old Testament, the light of the lampstand could only be seen inside the tabernacle whereas in the New Testament, Jesus exhorts us to let our light shine before men—let the work of the spirit be evident to all.

1. Be Fuel of the Spirit

In order for the light to burn brightly, it needs fuel. Eph 5: 18 tells us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We also need to fan into flame the gifts of God within us. The gifts of God can be received through a prophetic word with the laying on of hands. The prophetic word is meant to give us hope and used as a weapon for spiritual warfare.

Chloe Esposito who won the pentathlon when interview said her father advised her before the eve of the game: “don’t try to win a medal” What he meant was “just do what you have always done in training”. To shine for God is not an event, it is a consistent lifestyle.

1. Get out and shine

Louis Armstrong was brought in for audition when he was young, but he couldn’t sing in tune, because of that he was rejected from the music school but he said; “I know there’s music in me, they can’t keep it from coming out of me”

We need to allow what is inside of us to come out. We are all originals. We need to learn to embrace out own style of evangelism.

* Confrontational: Peter Acts 2
* Intellectual/philosophical: Paul Acts 17
* Testimonial: Blind man Jn 9
* Invitational: Woman at the well Jn 4
* Signs and Wonders: I Cor 2:1-5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

* The lampstand in the tabernacle includes the representation of the fruit of the spirit and the gifts of the spirit. Read Gal 5 and I Cor 12, which of those areas do you think you are “shining” in and which are needs improvement?
* What are some of the most significant prophetic words you have received? Share with your group and what are you doing practically to stir it up?

(If you have never received a prophetic word, think of what practical ways you can do to be filled with the spirit)

* What are your natural style of evangelism? (optional: take the evangelism styles questionnaire to find out)

**Evangelism Styles Questionnaire:**

**Scoring Totals:**

3 - Very much | 2 – Somewhat | 1 - Very Little | 0 - Not at all

\_\_\_ 1. In conversations, I like to approach topics directly, without much small talk or beating around the bush.

\_\_\_ 2. I have a hard time getting out of bookstores or libraries without getting a bunch of books that will help me better

understand issues being debated in society.

\_\_\_ 3. I often tell stories about my personal experiences in order to illustrate a point I am trying to make.

\_\_\_ 4. I am a “people person” who places a high value on relationships.

\_\_\_ 5. I enjoy including or adding new people to activities I do.

\_\_\_ 6. I see needs in people’s lives that others often overlook.

\_\_\_ 7. I do not shy away from putting a person on the spot.

\_\_\_ 8. I tend to be analytical.

\_\_\_ 9. I often identify with others by using phrases like “I used to think that too” or “I once felt the way you do.”

\_\_\_ 10. I make new friends easily.

\_\_\_ 11. To be honest, even if I knew the answers, I am more comfortable having someone “better qualified” explain it.

\_\_\_ 12. I find fulfillment in helping others often in behind-the-scenes ways.

\_\_\_ 13. I do not have a problem confronting my friends with the truth even if it risks hurting the relationship.

\_\_\_ 14. In conversations, I naturally focus on the questions and abstract ideas.

\_\_\_ 15. When I tell people of how I came to Christ, I have found that they have been interested in hearing it.

\_\_\_ 16. I would rather delve into personal life issues than abstract ideas.

\_\_\_ 17. When I know of an outreach event, I make a big effort to bring people.

\_\_\_ 18. I prefer to show love through my actions more than my words.

\_\_\_ 19. I find it easy to confront a person with the truth, even when it conflicts with their values.

\_\_\_ 20. I enjoy discussions and debates on difficult questions.

\_\_\_ 21. I openly share my mistakes with anyone who may learn from them.

\_\_\_ 22. I prefer getting involved in discussions concerning a person’s life before dealing with the details of their beliefs.

\_\_\_ 23. I tend to watch for spiritually strategic events to bring people to such as Family Day, Quest, VBS, Small Groups,

Impact, Winterfest, Good Timers Breakfast or the Free Sale.

\_\_\_ 24. When people are spiritually closed, I have found that my quiet demonstrations of Christian love sometimes

make them more receptive.

\_\_\_ 25. A motto that would fit me is: “Make a difference or a mess, but do something.”

\_\_\_ 26. I often get annoyed with people when they use weak arguments or poor logic.

\_\_\_ 27. People seem interested in hearing stories about things that have happened in my life.

\_\_\_ 28. I enjoy long talks with friends.

\_\_\_ 29. I am always looking for a match between the needs and interests of my friends and the various events, books,

etc., that they would enjoy or that would help them.

\_\_\_ 30. I feel more comfortable physically assisting a person than starting a conversation or discussion with someone.

\_\_\_ 31. I sometimes get in trouble for lacking gentleness and sensitivity in the way I interact with others.

\_\_\_ 32. I use questions and ideas to get at the underlying reasons for opinions that people hold.

\_\_\_ 33. I am still amazed at how God brought me to faith in Him and I am motivated to tell people about it.

\_\_\_ 34. People generally consider me to be an interactive, sensitive, and caring kind of person.

\_\_\_ 35. A highlight of my week would be to bring a guest with me to a church event.

\_\_\_ 36. I tend to be more practical and action-oriented than philosophical and idea-oriented.

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|  | **Confrontational**  #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #7 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #13 \_\_\_\_\_  #19 \_\_\_\_\_  #25 \_\_\_\_\_  #31 \_\_\_\_\_ | **Intellectual**  #2 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #8 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #14 \_\_\_\_\_  #20 \_\_\_\_\_  #26 \_\_\_\_\_  #32 \_\_\_\_\_ | **Testimonial**  #3 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #9 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #15 \_\_\_\_\_  #21 \_\_\_\_\_  #27 \_\_\_\_\_  #33 \_\_\_\_\_ | **Interpersonal**  #4 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #10 \_\_\_\_\_  #16 \_\_\_\_\_  #22 \_\_\_\_\_  #28 \_\_\_\_\_  #34 \_\_\_\_\_ | **Invitational**  #5 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #11 \_\_\_\_\_  #17 \_\_\_\_\_  #23 \_\_\_\_\_  #29 \_\_\_\_\_  #35 \_\_\_\_\_ | **Serving**  #6 \_\_\_\_\_\_  #12 \_\_\_\_\_  #18 \_\_\_\_\_  #24 \_\_\_\_\_  #30 \_\_\_\_\_  #36 \_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Totals:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Six Styles of Evangelism**

There are many ways to share the Gospel.

Find the one that suits you best.

*Becoming a Contagious Christian* highlights six different evangelism styles to help you witness with

confidence and power.

**Confrontational:**

This style tends to be bold, blunt, straight forward and in your face. It is strongly evident throughout Scripture. Peter uses it in Acts 2.22-44, when he addresses the crowd after Pentecost. "What must we do to be saved?" many asked, after Peter confronts and challenges them. "Repent and be baptized," demands Peter. See also Acts 3.11-20, 4.8-13, 19-20, 5.29-32, John 21.15-19, Matthew 23.23-36, John 8.42-47.

**Intellectual:**

This style is logical, rational and loves to deal with questions and ideas. "What do you think?" is often the

opening question. In Acts 17.16-31, Paul uses this style with the Athenians, at the center of the intellectual

civilization, as he debates with these learned men of Greece. See Also Matthew 22.5-46 and Galatians 3.15-25.

**Testimonial:**

This style tells our conversion experience in a form of a story. In John 9 the blind man who was healed by Jesus refuses to argue with the authorities as to whether Jesus is a good man or bad. "All I know is this," he says. "I was blind, and now I can see." We too, have personal experiences of Jesus to share like this blind man. See Also John 4.39-42, Acts 9.1-19, 22.1-21, 26.2-29, John 5.31-40, 8.38 and Matthew 21.28-46.

**Interpersonal / Relational:**

This style focuses on relationships. It requires strong “people skills.” Levi, in Luke 5.27-32, was a hated tax-collector, yet he followed Jesus. His evangelism style was to throw a great bean-feast and invite his tax-collector buddies to come and meet Jesus. He used his relationships to bring others to Christ. See also Luke 7.36-38, 19.5, 15.1-2.

**Invitational:**

Many feel comfortable with this style, it simply requires you to invite. You bid the person to come. In John 4.29-30, the Samaritan woman runs back to town and invites her friends to "come and see" Jesus. Who does not like to be invited to meet someone? See Also Mark 1.17 and Matthew 11.28.

**Serving:**

Often this style melts the hearts of unbelievers because it demonstrates love over a long period of time.

Dorcas is described in Acts 9.36 as filling her days with acts of kindness and charity. It’s using yourself, your talents and energies to help someone else. See Also John 13.1-17, 20.24-31 and John 10.34-38.

No one style fits everyone's personality—or every situation. If you force everyone into one mold, you

drive them away from evangelism. If you force unbelievers into one approach, you may drive them away

from Christ.