

w/b 2nd July 2017

THEME: LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Passages:

RADIATE GOD BY BEING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Exodus 34:28 & 29

²⁸ Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments.

It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

RADIATE GOD BY REFLECTING HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Philippians 2 14-18

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.

RADIATE GOD BY PUTTING GOOD DEEDS ON DISPLAY

Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

RADIATE GOD BY POINTING OTHERS TO CHRIST

Daniel 12:3

‘Those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.’

LAUNCH

As we were meeting this morning I looked across the Jubilee centre car park and saw Carol Murdoch’s shiny vintage MG possibly slightly covetously. What shiny object have you owned or would like to own and why? Optional: vote on who made the best pitch for their shiny object

In what way do you think that God is calling you to shine for him at the moment?

DISCOVERY/UNDERSTANDING

- Consider the Exodus passage. How can we go about doing a bit more than just grabbing a few minutes with the Lord?
- What times during the day might be considered 'idle time' where you can consciously choose to give that time to God? (car/train/domestic chores/unnecessary TV/tablet etc)
- What are the benefits of fasting? When was the last time you fasted and why?
- How might you anticipate 'radiating' by spending more time in God's presence?
- Consider the Philippians passage. Why does Paul see grumbling and arguing as particular signs of a 'warped and crooked' generation?
- What sort of things do you find yourself grumbling or arguing about?
- What things of the world condition our minds to grumble & complain more?
- How can we put a stop to this and how does seeing ourselves as children of God help?
- You might have thought that the light on the hill passage would be about the gospel but instead it was about good deeds. Why does Jesus consider good deeds to be important?
- According to Ephesians God has a whole pile of good deeds tailor made for us to do. How might this motivate us to do them?
- I find that in the area of good deeds the flesh really wages war with the Spirit. What does this struggle look like and how do we overcome?
- Read the Daniel passage. How might he understand the term righteousness and how would Christians understand it?

APPLICATION

- Pray for one another for better quality time with our Father
- Pray that our speech would demonstrate higher levels of faith and lower levels of cynicism and 'world weariness'
- Pray that we would quickly see those pre prepared good works and obey the Holy Spirit in getting on with them (remember Mike Pilavachi)
- Pray for our light to shine and attract others to Christ. Pray for particular people by name