

# PART 1: SHINING THE LIGHT

## I. Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing? Were you a truth-teller last week?

## II. Scriptures

The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind – just as You, Father, are in me, and I in You. So that the world will know that You sent me and the same glory You gave me, I gave them. **-John 17:23**

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. **-Matthew 5:14-16**

## Did You Know?

C.S. Lewis, or Clive Staples Lewis, was a British writer, theologian, and scholar best known for his works on Christian apologetics and the beloved Chronicles of Narnia series. Born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1898, Lewis was an atheist in his early years but converted to Christianity in his thirties, largely influenced by his close friendship with fellow author J.R.R. Tolkien. Lewis went on to become one of the most prominent Christian thinkers of the 20th century, authoring books such as Mere Christianity, The Screwtape Letters, and The Great Divorce. In these works, he explored profound themes of faith, morality, and human nature, often using imagery of light and darkness to illustrate the battle between good and evil. In The Chronicles of Narnia, for instance, light symbolizes truth, hope, and the divine presence of Aslan, while darkness often represents ignorance, fear, and oppression. Through his imaginative writing and clear theological insights, Lewis invites readers to recognize light as a transformative force, one that both guides and empowers people to reflect God's goodness in a shadowed world.

## V. Prayer Requests

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

## IV. Challenge

Be a light this week.

## III. Discussion Questions

- **What does it mean to you personally to be “the light of the world”?** Reflect on Jesus' words in Matthew 5:14-16. Share an example from your life where you've felt called to bring light into a dark situation. How did your actions impact those around you?
- **How can we, as a church community, better reflect Christ's light to others?** Consider our church's outreach efforts, like First Tuesday, and our monthly mission focus. What other ways might we shine the light of Christ, especially in times of division or uncertainty?
- **Where are you on your journey of giving as part of your discipleship?** Reflect on the steps of giving outlined in the sermon: Intentional, Proportional, Tithing, and Impact giving. What challenges do you face in moving forward on this path, and how might you take a step toward the next level of commitment?

**Quote:** C.S. Lewis -- “Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see Him.”

### Giving Path

#### 1. Intentional Giver

Make a giving plan. Even small, regular gifts make a difference.

#### 2. Proportional Giver

Give a percentage of your income, recognizing that all we have comes from God.

#### 3. Tither

Aim for 10% of your income, a biblical practice that challenges and deepens our trust in God.

#### 4. Impact Giver

Give beyond 10%, investing sacrificially in God's work to transform the world.