



DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

DAY 1

READ MATHEW 5:14-16

How do you feel when you hear the statement, "you are the light of the world?" Jesus called himself the Light of the world. How, then, are we the light of the world? Here is what Jesus is saying: I am the true light, and through you I will light up the world.

As followers of Jesus we have been given influence to reflect Jesus to others. God has chosen us to push back the darkness. The majority of those we come in contact with are in spiritual darkness. Most of those will never pick up a Bible. How will they know who God is? How are they going to know what Jesus is all about? We are the plan. We are his reflection. For most people, all they will ever know about Jesus is what they see in our lives. That is our influence; our responsibility. Jesus didn't say, "Would you mind being my light?" No, He says, "You are my light. You are the light of the world." Your life is how people will know about Me.

Am I shining?

What is my light saying about who Jesus is?

Is my light drawing people to Jesus or pushing them away?



DAY 2

READ JOHN 8:12

Your life is all people will know about Jesus. This is a big deal. We can't really be the light of the world, can we? We can barely make it throughout the day without messing up, but we forget the source of our light—Jesus is the true light of God. When we follow Him, we will have light, we will be living lights.

Jesus said, “When I leave you, I will send another who will help you do even greater things than if I was here with you in the flesh.” He was talking about the Church. Most of us don't think of church that way. We think about seeing friends, music and worship, meeting with and learning about God. But Jesus intended for church to be a place with global significance. We can believe that God, through His church, will do incredible things. The church is the hope of the world. Jesus believed it! Why don't we?

How do you envision the church?
What would the church envisioned by Jesus look like?

DAY 3

READ MATTHEW 5:14-15

Jesus gives us two examples of light. First, he describes it as a city on a hill—you might not notice it during the day, but at night you couldn't hide it. This is how the Church should be—a light in the darkness, the hope of the world.

Second, He describes it as a lamp. Many houses in Jesus' day had only one light in the room to provide illumination. You had to face the light to see. You wouldn't cover it up. Similarly, Jesus warns us not to hide our light. We often hide our light in two ways: living inconsistently and being indifferent to lost people. We complain and argue. We gossip and embrace sin. We live just like everyone else and it puts out the light.

We are not only to be a light to the people we like; Jesus expects to shine His light for all people!

How do you as an individual or the church hide Jesus' light?
How can we become the city on the hill or the lamp?

DAY 4

READ MATTHEW 22:36-45

How are we to shine our light? We have to look to Jesus. If we are going to be followers of Jesus, we have to learn to love people, including those who we believe are our enemies. If we believe that the Gospel of Jesus is the answer, we have to ask God to help us love people; every man, woman, and child.

Nothing will hide our light faster than a gossiping, mean spirit. A hidden light is a useless light. We are the light of the world. We are the plan. We can't fulfill what God has called us to do if we are filled with fear, hate, and meanness. How about your neighbor, your co-worker? Are you a light to them? You are not called to shine your light with indifference. Light is aggressive. Shine your light!

Who are you called to shine your light to?
How will you shine your light today?

DAY 5

READ MATTHEW 5:16

How are we called to shine our light? First, we are to shine here. Wherever God has placed you, let your light shine. It's good practice to shine for each other in the church, for kids, for adults. We want to nurture the best kids ever. We have adults who need to be discipled, who need community. How can you be a light in those areas of need?

Second, shine there. God has placed you in our city in a specific location to be a faithful presence, consistently shining, consistently serving.

Finally, we are to shine everywhere. We are not a perfect light. In fact, we often may be broken, but together we are a collection of fragments that reflect the light, that bounce off into the lives of others. We can reflect light into the dark places of the world, change some things in some people, and hope that others may see us and do likewise.

*Where is God calling you to shine here at North Ridge?
Where is God calling you to shine there, in your community?
How is God calling you to shine everywhere?*