

How did you come to faith in Jesus?

Part of my story is centred around a group of young Christians at my secondary school who were open and included me in their lives. I was impacted by the authenticity of their friendship and the real way that their faith in Jesus infiltrated every part of their lives. It made sense for me of all the bible stories and things I had in my head about God. The Christian character of these ordinary young people was incredibly significant in my own journey to faith.

Finish this sentence: "when people look at my life, I hope they see someone who ....."

When St Francis said this
What did

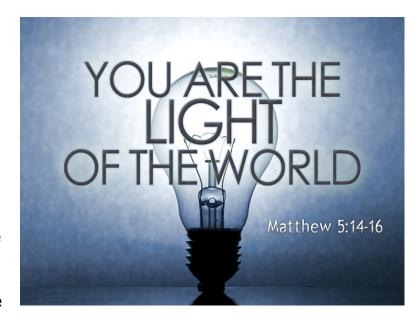
he mean?

Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary use words.

We need to be living demonstrations that the Gospel is true. Jesus made this point by comparing us to light in a dark world:

Matthew Ch5: 14-16

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."

What does it mean to be "the light of the world"?

What sorts of "good deeds" do you think will cause people to become curious about God?

Why do you think unbelievers are watching our actions so closely?

What helps you be the light of the world?

When or where does your light find it difficult to shine brightly?

The **you** in the passage is pleural. None of us is the whole light on our own, nor does Jesus expect us to be. What is the power of Christian communities to give out light? How can our home group or our families be the light of the world?



Action: what can we be intentional about this week to display God's goodness?



## Further verses to think on

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Follow God's example,

therefore, as dearly loved children **2** and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**1Peter 2:12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Acts 4:13** When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these

men had been with Jesus.

## Take time to pray for each other:

Include prayer for some people who need the light of Jesus and don't yet know him.



Others in our group who aren't here, but need prayer.

Include some big issues that you know about in the world.

God has entrusted you and I with a portion of his resources in order to do his work on earth. Investing these resources takes time, effort, courage, trust in God, and many other qualities. What are the main challenges that face us in using what God has entrusted to us?

Develop our Shape to

Circle where you see your



## **Serve Others:**

'Talents'







Welcome











Take time to pray and consider how you can contribute to the future life of our group(s).

We will start the conversation about where we will meet and the roles we will play as the group looks to the future.