**“Shining Bright”**

Going deeper in John 1:1-5 & Matthew 5:14-16

**INTRODUCTION** – The passage in John tells us about why Jesus as the Son of God stepped into our world. The passage in Matthew has to do with our response to the Lord Jesus.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

John 1:1-5 - 1 The Word was there from the beginning. The Word was with God and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Everything was made through Him and without Him nothing was made – not one single thing! 4 In Him was real Life and that Life was the Light to live by. 5 And the Light of Life blazed in the darkness and the darkness could not overpower it.

Matthew 5:14-16 14 You are to shine God’s light in the world. You are to be as public as a brightly lit city on a hill which cannot be hidden. 15 If I make you to be light bearers I am not going to hide you under a bucket, but instead I will make you into a lampstand that gives light to everyone near you. 16 Let your light shine before all so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What similarities does this first chapter of John have with the first chapter of Genesis? What might the Apostle John be saying with this parallel between the beginning of creation and the beginning of Jesus’ time on earth?

2. Why does John use the titles: Word, Life, and Light to describe Jesus? What do each of those words tell you about Jesus?

3. Why does the Lord Jesus rely on you and I to carry his light into the world rather than doing it himself through some miraculous means?

4. What are the places the Lord is calling you to shine his light? How will you rely on the Holy Spirit to do this?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks to the Lord for bringing light and life into your life and the world.

\*Pray for those you know who need the hope that comes with the One who is the Light of the World.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and empower you to let the light of Jesus shine brightly in your life.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Jesus stepped into the world to light the way into life. Will you step into the world of someone else to let the light of Jesus shine through you?