

Priming the Pump

1. Begin by reading the Scripture for this week's message, Luke 8:16-21.
2. Jesus' teaching about the lamp in v.16 recalls to mind the children's song "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!" In your group, talk about a time that your light was shining out to others, and this led to a cherished memory or life-long relationship? (This is a very open-ended question, interpret it however you like.)

Getting into the Word

3. Last week's passage and this week's passage are part of the same narrative. Read these three verses one after the other: v.15, v.18, and v.21, and write down your thoughts on the point Jesus is emphasizing. Why did he repeat Himself three times in a row?
4. In our passage, Jesus said that His family is made up of those who hear the word of God and do it. This is one of many teachings in the Bible about those who hear the word and then act on it. Read the following Scriptures and write down a few words for each: How does each motivate us? What are the promised results? How does each passage give us hope?
 - a. Matthew 7:24-27
 - b. James 1:22-25
 - c. Luke 11:27-28
 - d. John 10:2-4
 - e. Rev 3:20

5. Read the parable of the ten minas in Luke 19:11-26. Compare the actions of the master at the end of the parable to what Jesus spoke in Luke 8:18 from this week's sermon. How are the contexts different and how are they the same? What is the conclusion Jesus is teaching in both?

Digging Deeper

6. A follower of Jesus is called to identify and be visible as a Christian above any other aspect of our lives: above national identity, career path, ethnic heritage, family position, and everything else. Think about a time during your Christian walk when people saw you as something other than a follower of Jesus Christ first; perhaps it was your job, your hobby, your political views, or your social standing. How did you change their perspective to see you as a Christian first? Was it risky to make this change? Was it difficult? Did opportunities for witness open up afterwards?
7. Pastor Aaron taught that having the light of the Gospel is of little value if it is covered up or hidden. Rather, we are to put it on display and do something with it. Write down some ways that we cover the light of the gospel in our lives, and some ways that we display it in our lives. After sharing some of these with your group, discuss ways to overcome our inclinations to hide the light. How can we be better at putting the Gospel on display in our lives?