

Stop Acting Like a Christian, Be One—Week 1

- What is something that you are passionate about in your own life? How has that passion influenced your life and your actions?
- What areas of your relationship with Christ do you think you are most passionate about? What areas do you seem least passionate about?

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost

Matthew 18:11 (KJV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (KJV)

- It is our mandate from Heaven to reach a lost and dying world, How passionate are you about reaching the lost? Explain.
- What are some of the things in our lives that distract us and hold us back from reaching the lost for Christ?
- How does fear affect our passion and desire to reach the lost? How can we remove that fear from our lives?

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 17:14-18 (KJV)

- We are not called to judge or criticize others, but rather to simply reach the lost. How have you been judgmental towards others especially those that do not know Christ as their Savior? Why do you think it is so easy to have a judgmental attitude towards others?

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:13-14 (KJV)

- How do you see yourself as a “light of the world”? In what ways can you make your light shine brighter?

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

John 18:37 (KJV)

- Where are some specific places you feel called to go both near and far to witness to those who do not know Christ?

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:2 (KJV)

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-20 (KJV)

- Who are some specific people that you know who are lost and need Christ? What are some specific things you can do this week to not only witness to them, but show them firsthand Christ's love?

Final thought: As Christians, we need to ensure that our hearts beat for what God's heart beats for, which is reaching the lost. It is our mandate from God to reach a lost and broken world. With your group, pray and ask God to remove any fear, critical spirits or anything else that may be holding you back from sharing God's love with those who are lost. Pray for those that each of you named during your time together who are lost and commit to God that you will all make an effort this week to do something for them that demonstrates God's love.

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For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What is it about darkness that frightens most people?

Explore

Read Matthew 5:13-16

- To what valuable substance did Jesus compare His disciples? (5:13)
- What is an essential characteristic of salt? (5:13)
- How did Jesus imply that a Christian's positive influence can wane or disappear? (5:13)
- To what did Jesus compare His followers? (5:14)
- How are we like light? (5:14)
- What use of a lamp teaches us about living? How? (5:15)
- According to Jesus, how exactly are Christians to be like lamps? (5:16)
- What kind of behavior should other people see Christians exhibiting? (5:16)
- If believers live as they are supposed to live, how will others respond toward God? (5:16)

Reflect

- What did Jesus mean when He called His followers salt?

- How can a Christian lose his or her saltiness?
- What does it mean to "let your light shine"?
- What is the effect of bright light in a dark place?
- What specific behaviors mark the life-style of a salty, shining Christian?
- In light of your gifts, abilities, and interests, what specific problem in our world can you counteract as a representative of Christ?

Apply

- How can you be salt and light to the people God has placed in your life?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Matthew 18:11 and John 3:16. Pray and ask God to help instill a passion within you to reach the lost.

Day 2: Read John 17:14-18 and Matthew 5:13-16. Pray and ask God to help make you a light in a dark world. Ask Him to remove any fear or anything else that may be holding you back from witnessing to others.

Day 3: Read Matthew 28:19-20 and John 18:37. Pray and ask God to reveal to you where He wants you to go to witness to those who are lost. Seek His guidance on exactly when and how He wants you to go and witness.

Day 4: Read Romans 12:2. Commit to God in prayer that you will do your best to not conform to the ways of the world. Ask for His daily renewing of your mind so that your thoughts will focus on those things that are good and pleasing to Him.

Day 5: Read Matthew 4:18-20. Pray for those who you know are lost and need Christ in their lives. Commit to God in prayer that you will do something this week to show them Christ's love through words and actions.