

SERIES OVERVIEW

Jesus' stories and teachings challenge how we see God and other people. This series explores our value to God, the invitation to welcome others, and the joy of being found.

BOTTOM LINE

Let your faith be visible through kindness and a genuine invitation.

SCRIPTURE

Read Matthew 5:14-16 together. Jesus calls his followers “the light of the world.” He compares their visible good deeds to a lamp placed where it can give light to everyone in a house. Notice whom the light benefits and whom it points toward.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Let students consider the passage before discussing who to invite. They may pass on any personal question.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is an invitation you were genuinely glad to receive? What made it easy to say yes?
- What makes a group or event feel welcoming before anyone says a word?

WHAT THE TEXT SAYS

- What images does Jesus use for being visible? Why would hiding a lamp defeat its purpose?
- According to verse 16, what should people notice, and whom should their response honor?
- How can a person's actions give light without drawing attention only to themselves?

Leader note: Invitation is one example of visible faith. Jesus also names good deeds. Give students room to suggest other ways to serve and welcome people.

WHAT WE CAN DO

An invitation can open a door when it is personal, respectful, and free of pressure. Talk about what welcoming someone looks like before, during, and after an event.

- What can make inviting a friend to church feel awkward? How could you invite them honestly while respecting their answer?
- If someone came with you, what would help them feel at ease once they arrived?

INVITATION REFLECTION

Invite students to think privately; no one needs to name another person aloud.

- **Close connections:** Is there a friend or family member who might enjoy joining you for a service or event?
- **Everyday connections:** Is there a classmate, teammate, or neighbor you could get to know better first?
- **Someone on the edge:** How could you include someone who is often left out, whether or not they ever attend church?

A NATURAL INVITATION

"I'm going to a student event on Friday. You'd be welcome to come with me if you're interested. No pressure." If the answer is no, remain a friend.

PRAY TOGETHER

God, help our choices reflect your care for people. Give us the courage to be kind and the wisdom to listen. Teach us to invite others with sincerity and to welcome them without expectations. Amen.

LEADERS Share accurate details for any upcoming local event. Encourage a specific next step, such as learning someone's name, offering a thoughtful invitation, or helping a guest feel included. Respect every response.