



SHINE:
Youth Sunday

Matthew 5:13-16

James 3:4-5, 9-12

Weekly Life Group Guide
4 of 4

1) Start your group with the following questions:

When you were a student, did you ever lead in worship in a Church or religious organization? What was your experience?

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church this week acted on opposing proposals that would either allow or further prohibit LGBTQ persons being ordained or married in the Church. Respectful of other opinions, what is yours?

Some have, in the debate and conflict about this issue, said publically that those who oppose ordination or marriage for LGBTQ persons are rejecting LGBTQ persons and failing to value them people of sacred worth. Do you agree? Does it follow? Are those who support a traditional interpretation of ordination and marriage by that position supporting hatred?

2) Share joys and concerns, and use the prayer from Youth Sunday at Old Mission, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Dear God, Thank you for gathering us to worship in your name. We are grateful for this space to be in fellowship with one another in your presence. Please lead us to see your light and let that same light shine through us. Today, help us to be engaged in worship of you, in your name we pray, Amen. (Followed by the unison praying of the Lord's Prayer)

3) Look up the first Scripture from this week (**Matthew 5:13-16**) and then discuss the following questions:

Vs. 13: What does it mean when Jesus calls us the salt of the earth? Why is the metaphor of salt important? What good does salt do? What good can we do?

Vs. 14-16: What does Jesus mean when he calls his followers the Light of the World? What good does light do? In what way does Jesus call us to "Let our light shine?"

If you were using a different metaphor for how Jesus calls us to live in the world, what would it be? And why?

4) Look up the 2nd Scripture from Youth Sunday this week (**James 3:4-5, 9-12**) and then discuss the following questions.

Vs. 4-5: In what does or words (the tongue) function in our lives the same way as a rudder steers a ship? In what way are our words capable of setting a fire like a spark in a dry forest? How can we prevent that?

Vs. 9-10: What is the point of these two verses regarding blessing and cursing? Does cursing mean curse words alone? Does blessing mean a formal type of blessing or something more??

Vs. 11-12: What do these verses mean – i.e. fresh/brackish water, the fruits of differing trees, fresh/salt water? How do they apply to us? What can we do to make our words more reflective of Christ's love?

5) If your Life Group or Class meets before Ash Wednesday please encourage you members to attend one of the services. Whether or not you meet before Ash Wednesday, please discuss the following questions.

Do you now or have you ever observed Ash Wednesday? Why/why not? How do you understand the purpose for the Christian season of Lent? Do you ever "give up something" for Lent? Why do some people do so? What is your favorite service, if any of the following "special services" of the Lenten Season and why is it? Ash Wednesday, Holy/Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (Tennebrae), Easter Vigil or Easter Sunrise.

6) Review the description for the series that starts Sunday.

The "Beauty for Ashes" worship series focuses on the promise from Isaiah 61:3 that God brings *"beauty for ashes, gladness for tears and a spirit of praise instead of a downcast spirit."* Week after week, we will see how Jesus brought this promise to fulfillment from the very beginning of his ministry to ordinary people like us, and we will claim his healing power for today.

March 10 Luke 4:16–21 *"Rebuilding from the Ruins"*

March 17 Luke 5:17–25 *"Doing what is Necessary"*

March 24 Luke 6:20–23 *"Blessings from Brokenness"*

March 31 Luke 7:36–50 *"Moving Forward from the Past"*

April 7 Luke 8:43–48 *"The Touch"*

April 14 Luke 19:28–40 *"The Sound of Stones"*

7) Announce your next Life Group or Class meeting. Close your meeting in prayer for one another and Old Mission.