

WEEK 2: I AM MARKED... TO CHANGE THE WORLD

SET IT UP

God wants to change our hearts. He wants us to see His truth and have it transform our lives, our values, and our priorities. When our hearts are changed God will use us to make a difference... and maybe even change the world!

CONNECT

1. As we instituted last week, allow one or two other people “have the floor” and share a little about who they are and what their spiritual journey has looked like so far... (Continuing groups option: Share where God has been “growing you” lately.)
2. When it comes to how you are wired, do you characterize yourself as an introvert or extrovert? Creative or practical? Talkative or quiet? Leader or follower?

GROUNDING IN THE WORD

Read the following together then watch the second session of our study DVD.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

²⁷So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them.

Genesis 1:27 NLT

²⁸One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”



²⁹"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength- ³¹The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-31 NIV

VIDEO NOTES

The first lesson is this: If you want to change someone's deepest values, start by _____.

The second lesson is this: Christians need to _____ to withdraw from society and instead _____ their culture.

TALK IT OVER

3. Think of someone you know that has a faith or relationship with the Lord that is a bright light. Tell a little about him/her and what it is that makes them "shiny." How does it affect the people they come in contact with... both Christians and unbelievers?

4. How "shiny" are you to the world right now?

- A night light... dim but at least letting my light show some
- A flashlight... lighting the way for those nearest me
- A lighthouse... bright and beckoning for any who seek it
- A floodlight... bringing blinding light everywhere I go
- Other _____

5. Has there been a time you asked God to use you to make a difference in a specific situation or in someone's life? What action did you take? What was the outcome?

TAKE IT DEEPER

6. Read Romans 12:1-2:

¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around

you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12:1-2 MSG

As you think about this Bible passage and how you want to live out your faith, consider how our culture affects you. Do you affect the world around you more than it affects you or are you “well adjusted” to the culture? Explain.

7. What about the church (i.e. us!)? How are we affecting culture? How is the culture influencing us?

8. According to the following what are the reasons for the light Jesus has planted in those who follow Him?

*⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:
⁶ He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.*

Psalms 37:5-6 NIV

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

ACTION ITEM

9. What can we do to help the church (again, that’s us!) be a powerful force in our culture today to reach more and more people with the message of Jesus?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE CHALLENGE

Project our group is going to do:

Where it will take place:

When (date and times):

Materials/supplies required:

Financial considerations (if any):

What will happen to any overage or shortage of funds?

Specific task assignments:

Liaison to the Organization/Person you’re helping

Information gathering (directions to location, personal supply list, etc.)



- Who will purchase supplies/materials?
- Who will take pictures of you carrying out the project?
- Who will email smallgroups@eastlakechurch.com with all the details and a recap?
- Other: _____

PRAY

PRAY for God's continued guidance and blessing for this task!

TAKE IT HOME

What is it that is taking some of the shine out of your walk with the Lord? Regular self-checks are an important part of growing and maturing in our Christian walk. Do a self evaluation based on the Purpose Driven Life Health Assessment:

Rating Scale: 1-2 Just Beginning 3-4 Getting Going 5 Doing Great

Connecting

- I am deepening my understanding of & friendship with God in community with others
- I am growing in my ability both to share and to show my love to others
- I am willing to share my real needs for prayer and support from others
- I am resolving conflict constructively and am willing to forgive
- Total**

Growing

- I have a growing relationship with God through regular time in the Bible and in prayer
- I am experiencing more of the characteristics of Jesus in my life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control, etc.)
- I am avoiding addictive behaviors (food, television, busyness...) to meet my needs
- I spend time with Christian friends who celebrate and challenge my spiritual growth
- Total**

Serving

- I am regularly praying for God to show me opportunities to serve him and others
- I am serving in a regular (once a month or more) ministry in the church or community
- I am a team player in my small group by sharing some group role or responsibility
- Total**

Sharing

- I have relationships with non-Christians and pray for opportunities to share his love
- I invest time in another person or group who needs to know Christ personally
- I regularly invite unchurched or unconnected friends to my church or small group
- I am praying / learning about where God can use me cross-culturally for missions
- Total**

Surrendering

- I am experiencing more of the presence and power of God in my everyday life
- I faithfully attend my small group
- I faithfully attend weekend services to worship God
- I am seeking to please God by surrendering every area of my life (health, decisions, finances, relationships, future, etc.)
- I am accepting the things I cannot change and becoming increasingly grateful for the life I've been given
- Total**

Total your scores for each purpose, and mark one or two areas in which you'd like to commit to make some changes and become a little shinier! Now ask a friend or group member to check in with you in a month and see how you are doing.