

Small Group/Sermon Notes for Instead Part 1: Let Your Light Shine

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Instead: Set Up**
- This is a series about replacing the old with the new!
 - We will look at some Scriptures with the word "instead" included or implied.
 - It's basically **Romans 12:2** applied in a variety of circumstances.
 - Do you believe in the transforming power of the Gospel?
 - How does it happen? Free your mind and the rest will follow!
 - It's not enough to reject bad things, we must replace those things. **Matthew 12:43-45.**
- **Instead Part 1: Let Your Light Shine**
- **Matthew 5:14-16**
- Is our faith supposed to be personal, just between us and God? Nope.
 - Believers have a responsibility to let their little light shine!
- We are the light of the world? Let that sink in for a sec. What are the implications of that?
- "People don't need to hear about Jesus, they need to be shown."
 - **Titus 1:15-16.** Too many bad examples. What good examples have you seen?
 - Instead of corrupted vision, see the beautiful thing from God.
 - God doesn't make mistakes, but he does take chances on people.
 - It's like a partnership. Not that God would need help; He just decided to make it that way.
 - Be worth God taking a chance on you!
- **Step One:** Instead of being dark inside, receive the light!
 - You simply can't share what you don't have.
 - Why do so many Christians believe in: lying, hate, faking it, selfishness, disrespect, etc?
 - When Jesus says we are the light of the world he means: at work, at school, at home, at the DMV and Wal-Mart, and at church!
 - **Matthew 6:22-23.** Oh the tragedy of missing the beautiful thing from God.
 - What is Jesus talking about here?
 - Good News: God wants to light a fire in your soul that will light up your world!
- **Step Two:** Instead of being ashamed, Let Your Light Shine!
 - What if I don't have it all figured out yet? **1 Peter 3:15-16.**
 - Get comfortable not knowing everything, but you do know something! Share that!
 - What if people get mad at me? **John 15:20.**
 - Some will. But some will come to believe!
 - What if I mess up? If I'm a bad example?
 - Be real from the start. Then they will trust God more than you!
 - But, hey, take this seriously.
 - How do I let my light shine?
 - Forgive when it isn't warranted. Love when it isn't deserved.
 - Volunteer at church! If you need some structure we have it!!
 - Love God and follow the Holy Spirit's leading!!
- Instead of pretending, receive the light! Be born again!
- Instead of hiding your light, let it shine before people!
 - This isn't a performance, instead it's a 24/7 thing. **Luke 6:43-45.**
 - There is a lot here. The point is that we must deal with our hearts not merely our actions.
 - Get your heart right and then the actions will come naturally.
- Let's ask God to create a clean heart within us.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!