



WITNESS
Our
PEACE

Banning Liebscher

Sunday Message



Teaching Text:



(NIV) Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither 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. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

(NKJV) Romans 1:3-4

concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

recap. •

This week Banning Liebscher continues the series on peace with the message entitled “Witness of Peace”. For those of us who grew up in church, witnessing was something we were taught and heard about often. The importance of sharing the Gospel was something that was spoken about from the pulpit but not many of us understood how to actually put it into practice. As a result, many of us picked up the importance of our words in witnessing but not about the importance of our life as a witness.



But being a witness for the Gospel is not just about words (it involves words), and it's not just about getting someone saved. Our lives are a light that God wants to put on display so others can see it. This is what Jesus is referring to in Matthew 5. Our witness is powerful when our lives stand apart.

Our lives should look different, and should stand out, in the same way that light stands out in darkness. In the midst of storms, in the midst of a world overwhelmed by fear, followers of Jesus should look different. We have been given the peace of Christ and His peace is our inheritance.

As followers of Jesus, we are people who are set apart and free. Christ paid for our freedom and we now get to live free from fear. We are free from the fear of: death, lack, being alone or abandoned, uncertainty about the future and having no purpose.

We live in a culture that is obsessed with individuality but Jesus calls us to live differently. He tells us to lay down our lives for others and love in a way that is sacrificial.

Fear causes us to live in survival mode and turn our focus inwards. Peace allows us to focus on others and live in a way that emulates Christ.

Our lives should provoke questions from those who encounter us. When people are in your presence, they should leave wondering why you are filled with peace, kindness and hope. Whether we are aware of it or not, people are looking at your life and looking to see Jesus through you. Ultimately, our lives demonstrate the power of the Gospel and how God is able to work through His people.



Discussion Guide

Emotional Health Check In:

Take a few minutes to do an emotional health check in with your Life on Life group, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

- **What is something that you are looking forward to?**

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

ENGAGE

What has your church experience been in terms of being a witness to others? When you think about sharing the Gospel with others, what sort of feelings arise?

In what ways does your life stand apart from the world? In what ways have you adapted to culture and live in a way that fits in?

When you evaluate your life, do you truly feel free from fear?

ENCOUNTER

Spend a few minutes in stillness and quiet (you may want to play soothing music) in your group and ask the Holy Spirit the following question:

Holy Spirit, are there any areas in my life where I am living in survival mode due to fear? Please reveal those areas and show me what I need in order to walk in freedom in that particular area.

If time permits, allow those who want to, to share what God spoke to them during the encounter time.

EQUIP

Pay attention to your interactions with others this week. Take note as to whether or not you are truly turning your love and focus outward. Find ways to intentionally serve others this week (even in the smallest of ways). If this feels hard, examine what may be getting in the way.

REVIVAL IS COMING. REVIVAL IS HERE.

