

VISION 2020



TODAY'S THEME

DAY 2 | To see OURSELVES as God sees.

Today we take a look in the mirror to see ourselves as God sees us. Our scripture invites us to be salt and light in the world – bringing out the God flavors and God colors. It reminds us that God sees us as good, loving, kind, worthy and so much more. And our good work is to live bold lives of faith that bring God to life in the world.

WORD

Matthew 5: 13-16 [New Revised Standard Version, NRSV]

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Remember! You can read this printed scripture from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
Or you can watch the Vision Story video on the website.**

WONDER

The Bible is the story of God at work in the world; it is full of truth, love and life. God invites us to enter the story with a sense of wonder. This wonder is marked by curiosity, rather than a need to know the right answer. So let's wonder together!

Wonder Questions after the Story

- I wonder which part of the story you liked the most?
- I wonder what the people thought about Jesus?
- I wonder how you would describe God's great love?
- I wonder what ordinary things you might use to describe God's great love?
- I wonder what ordinary things Jesus might use to describe you?
- I wonder when do you feel the most important?
- I wonder what important things God wants you to do in this world?
- I wonder how you can be salt and light?

FAITH PRACTICE

Faith practices are actions and activities that help us grow in our faith and to feel God's presence in our lives.

Prayer Journal | Today, we reflect on the way God sees us. Our Faith practices makes space for us to pray for ourselves and hear God respond with love and kindness. A prayer journal gives you a private space to share with God whatever rests on our heart. Find a quiet space, some paper and a writing utensil. Now, write down whatever you'd like to share with God, your joys, your hopes, your struggles.

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FAMILY DEVOTION

Gather around the dinner table for a family devotion. Each day's family devotion has the same flow, start the meal with a camp grace, then make space to wonder together with the questions provided, read scripture and close in prayer. If you're feeling bold, you can continue with the Digging Deeper section to learn more about the scripture.

CAMP GRACE

Today's Camp Grace is the Firecracker Grace. Check out the sample videos led by Lutherhill's alumni summer staff. You really can't go wrong with this silly grace. You simply clap and make firecracker noises. Don't forget to make your own firecracker hand motions and finish strong with the grand finale, "WOW!"

Firecracker | Clap x5 – Pew (or your favorite firecracker noise), Clap x5 – Pew (or your favorite firecracker noise), Clap x5 – Pew (or your favorite firecracker noise), Clap x5 – Pew (or your favorite firecracker noise), Clap x5 – Pew (or your favorite firecracker noise), WOW! Amen.

WONDER TOGETHER

- I wonder if you've ever heard the phrase "let your light shine"?
- I wonder what that phrase means to you?
- I wonder what gifts God has given you?
- I wonder if it is easier to see our own flaws or our gifts?
- I wonder if it is hard to see yourself as loved, unique, & good?

WORD | Matthew 5: 13-16

Read from your family Bible, from the printed version on this handout, or watch the Vision Story together.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, you are the creator of salt and light; you are the creator of me. Help me see myself with your eyes. Give me the courage to be the God flavors and God colors in this world each and every day. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

To us, salt is a cheap, common, everyday seasoning. But in the day of Jesus, salt was very valuable. Only the wealthiest people could afford to salt their food. Sometimes the Roman soldiers were paid in salt. The Latin word for salt is 'sal' – the base of our word 'salary'. Salt was prized because it could preserve food before refrigeration.

To us, light is as easy as flipping a switch or lighting a match. We can have light any time of the day or night. It wasn't so in Jesus' day. Light came from lanterns which had limited fuel. When it ran out, it was dark until the sun rose again. To have light in the dark was a valuable commodity. By using salt and light as examples of Christian behavior, Jesus is comparing us to what is valuable, what enhances life.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus calls himself the light of the world. In this scripture, Jesus turns the spotlight and extends that distinction to the disciples. This is a really big deal. Sometimes people in leadership want to keep all the power sharing it by empowering or delegating. Jesus is a humble servant leader that finds strength in sharing power. Jesus empowered his first disciples to share God's great love. Jesus empowers you and me to share God's great love.

And yet, it's important that we never forget that our light first comes from God. This is a blessing – because if the light comes from God it's not up to us to create or keep it going. This is a warning – not to bask in our own glory, being overly proud or conceited. To God be the glory.

This scripture invites us to be bold in living our unique faith in front of others. When you feel ordinary, unworthy or unfit remember that God sees you as salt and light - incredibly valuable. God reminds us that ordinary things like - bread, wine, and water, salt and light, me and you - all have the power to reveal God's great love.