

# *Volunteer Sign Ups*

*As you pray about activating and engaging in the church as part of the body of Christ, consider signing up to serve as a volunteer! It is an honor and true blessing to serve others and be an active part of the mission of the church. We currently have many areas in need!*



# EKKLESIA

RECAPTURING JESUS' VISION FOR HIS CHURCH

Week 7 | Be A Jesus Influencer | Matthew 5:13-16

## IT IS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD NATURALLY SHINING THROUGH YOUR LIFE THAT HAS THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU

The Cambridge Dictionary defines influence as follows, "To affect or change how someone develops, behaves or thinks." When we use the word influence today, we typically think of social media influencers. Individuals who have a high level of popularity or authority within their industry and use their social media platforms to align others to think and act as they do. These influencers are widely embraced in our technological age. However, they aren't the only influencers. We all have "influencers" in our lives that we allow to impact us. Think about broadcasters on your favorite news network show, actresses or actors you enjoy, athletes you respect, politicians you vote for, or social justice/culture warriors that inspire you. There are a whole host of influencers that people line up behind and follow and as a result they advocate what those influencers believe, think and the way they act.

However, the greatest influencer in the life of the Christian should be Jesus. And each Christian's life should be platformed to lead others to believe in and follow Him. This is precisely what Jesus meant when He likened His disciples to salt and light. Their lives were purposed to have meaningful eternal impact and that happens naturally when you shine God's light in a way that clearly connects your life to Him.

**Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.**



### PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Spend time thinking and praying about the influence Jesus had in the lives of the first century disciples. Ask God to help you center your life around Christ as your key influencer.



### REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Write down the top 3 influencers in your life and answer these questions.

**How do these influencers lead you in your relationship with God? How have they influenced you in practical ways? Make a list. How has that influence drawn you closer to Christ and made you a greater influencer for Him? Is Jesus on your list?**

2. Pastor Derek listed 4 practical ways to be a Jesus influencer.

**Which of the 4 stood out to you the most and how will you practically apply that as a principle in your life this week?**

**There are two reasons it matters to influence people for Jesus. First, the only thing you can take with you to heaven are the people you bring with you. Second, influencing people for Jesus is your purpose. Without that you fail as a Christian.**

3. God has given you a circle of influence. That simply means the people who He has placed in your life today. **How are you influencing them to believe in and follow Jesus? What are some simple things you can do to be more of a Jesus influencer in their lives starting this week?**

4. **In your life group discuss the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Encourage one another to ask for the Baptism of the Spirit on a daily basis so that you can be empowered to influence others for Christ. Make this a part of your regular dialogue and encourage one another to be loving and bold in your witness.**

**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

**Acts 1:8**



## **WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE**

### **Daniel 12:3**

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.



## **REACH** (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, be prayerfully intentional to influence at least one life for Jesus this week.

**We will be waiting with anticipation to see how God used you to influence someone for Christ.**