

REVIEW

Sharing about his time as a police officer (when people would often ask him for directions), Anthony says, 'I never *arrested* anyone because they were lost – I *directed* them!' **Have you ever been afraid to approach God and ask Him for direction? If so, why? How could you encourage someone who feels lost or lives with tremendous shame that God won't rebuke them for asking for His help?**

Human beings are lost, but God loves us all. He sent Jesus – who says, 'Follow Me!' – to help us find our way. He calls people to come to Him, be with Him, and go for Him. **How would you explain this definition of discipleship to a five-year-old, or a fifteen-year-old, giving them relatable, real-life examples of how a relationship with Jesus plays out in your life?**

In Matthew 5:14–16, Jesus explains that the way people discover that He is who He says He is – the light of the world – is through *us* being lights too, shining brightly in a dark world. **With which groups of people are you tempted to hide your light instead of letting it shine (for fear of offending or because you don't want to be rejected or misunderstood)? In which situations has God used you to shine His light particularly brightly? Who benefitted from seeing your good deeds?**

Anthony points out that getting to shine the light of Jesus to those close to us is a privilege. **Why, then, do we so often keep it to ourselves? Why are we embarrassed to talk about our beliefs? Why do we feel awkward sharing the gospel? Do you feel equipped to tell your faith story? Why, or why not?**

In Matthew 13 Jesus tells stories about a hidden treasure and an expensive pearl, so we'd realise how valuable our relationship with Him is – priceless, and worth more than anything the world could offer. **Considering these parables, would you say you're someone who made a dramatic discovery of God's love and grace when you weren't even looking for it, or did it slowly dawn on you over time that the precious gift God was offering was right in front of you and yours for the taking? How would you explain to an unbelieving friend the irony that our priceless salvation cost us nothing because it cost God everything?**

Horizontal lines for writing.

Anthony says the greatest gift we can give anyone is to be part of helping them discover God’s love for them.

Who is God bringing to mind, even now? To whom is He prompting you to freely give, because it’s been freely given to you?

The treasure we’ve been given – new life in Christ – grows and grows as we give it away more and more. The more we appreciate it – sharing the wonder of it with others – the more it appreciates in value. **Describe your experience of this counterintuitive truth.**

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Matthew 7:13–14 reads, ‘You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.’ **These verses are both a warning and an encouragement. How could you paraphrase them for someone close to you who is desperate to discover God but is wrestling with doubt?**

Read Philippians 2:14–16. **What does Paul warn us *not* to do, in order that we might shine brightly in this dark and crooked generation? Why does abstaining from this bad habit make us stand out so brilliantly?**

We’re called to shine radiantly for Jesus, and also to be the sweet scent of salvation. In 2 Corinthians 2:15, Paul writes, ‘Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.’ **Who in your real life (not a Christian celebrity you follow on Instagram) brings a Christ-like fragrance into your life? How could you emulate them and be that lovely aroma for others?**

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LAST WORD

You were born to shine. God has called you to carry His light into a dark world desperate for His love. Keep reminding yourself and one another that you've been given 'the pearl of great price' – a relationship with Jesus, the living God. May you be inspired and encouraged to selflessly share that priceless gift with those He brings across your path, helping them to discover for themselves His astounding love.

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read John 1:5 in a different Bible translation from the one you usually use – perhaps The Message paraphrase, the Living Bible, or the New Living Translation. How is God prompting you in your current circumstances to strike a match in the darkness?

Write: Write out a list of people in your life who, as far as you're aware, don't yet know Jesus. Or create a relational mind map of people who are connected to you – friends, family, neighbours, co-workers. Pray, brainstorm, and write down ideas of ways you could lead them to discover more of God.

Pray: Pray expectantly for wisdom and creative ideas of ways to share your faith story with the people God has scripted into your story.