



Chat at Church Podcast Episode #12 Am I a dim bulb?

by Rita Murphy

*To be used with Matthew 5:14-16. This could be used in the “sermon” part of a worship service.

Pastor, another adult and Youth 1 are seated at a table labeled Chat at Church Podcast. The number of youth in the script could vary. Those labeled “youth” would speak at another microphone. The spaces are for specific names of the youth.

Pastor: Welcome, everyone, to our 12th episode of the Chat at Church Podcast. I am Pastor __, joined by __ and __ for our conversations around scripture topics.

Youth 1: Thanks to both of you for sharing your biblical knowledge, as well as your practical ideas of how to live out our faith.

Adult: We are happy to be here, and really enjoy digging a bit deeper into Jesus’ words.

Pastor: As you know, our scripture today comes from Matthew Chapter 5. I always like to give a little context of the scripture before we start to look at the details. Matthew Chapter 5 is the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount.

Adult: Jesus gives us the Blessed are the poor in spirit, Blessed are those who mourn, Blessed are the meek, and so on. He then moves in to the **expectations** for his followers: you are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world.

Youth 1: Wait, I get a little bit confused here. I thought Jesus said **HE** is the light of the world, but now this scripture is telling me **I** am the light of the world?

Pastor: You're right. In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Adult: Yes, Jesus is the light of the world. He is our power source for all of the lights that live in us. In our scripture for today, Jesus is saying that each one of us has a **piece** of Jesus' light inside us.

Youth 1: So that scripture today says that we are supposed to share that light, let others see it, so that they will praise God, too. Is that what you think?

Pastor: Yes, exactly. We are directed to shine our lights, not for our own glory, but that others may come closer to God because of our effective use of our lights.

Adult: Hmmmmm. Do you think we all have the exact same type of light in us? I am thinking of so many types of lights in our world today. I wonder if each of us has a unique kind of light within us? Yet all drawing from the same power source of Jesus?

Youth 1: Maybe our podcast followers can offer some real-life examples of the different types of light within us. Let's hear from _____ first.

Youth: Some people I know seem to be like a front porch light. You know, their spirit just gives a comforting, safe, welcoming feel. Maybe my light is like a front porch light?

Pastor: _____, thanks so much for your contribution! You are exactly right! Some people are called to be a front-porch light in our world. They just give off the down-home welcome feel. Jesus' parable of the father welcoming home his prodigal son with arms wide open reminds me of a front-porch light. Yes, you are a front porch light. Keep your light burning! Let's go to _____ next.

Youth : I am not really sure what type of light I might be or will be. I do know some people who are like a lighthouse set on a rocky coastline. They never change. They just faithfully continue to shine in good weather and bad weather, daytime or nighttime, in all seasons. I am certain that their power source must be a strong connection to Jesus to remain so constant in their light.

Adult: You're right! There are some people in this world that definitely shine faithfully on and on. We enjoy their company, and definitely give all the glory to God for their faith story. Maybe you will be a lighthouse, _____! Next comment from _____.

Youth : Have you ever been in a gymnasium when they first turn the lights on? Some of them have lights that need to warm up. They start off weak, but grow into a strong, bright light. Bright as daylight inside the gym! I can think of some people in their connection to Jesus as starting off weak, but growing stronger and stronger each day. It is important that our church family does not give up on the lights that are in the process of growing a little bit at a time.

Youth 1: I agree, _____! That makes me think of some of my friends that might need a little bit of encouragement from me to help them shine a bit brighter in their faith. Maybe we can be helpful to strengthen others in their growth in Christ. Maybe you and I are also warming up to be as bright as gymnasium lights! Our next comment comes from _____.

Youth : When I think of lights, I think of the very bright spot lights used in musicals and plays. They are so big, so bright, and so powerful. They point their attention on the people on stage and light up all the action. Some people have the light of Jesus in them so bright that they light up all the action in a way that leaves no doubt about the power of Jesus in our world today. I want to have that kind of connection to the power source to shine so brightly.

Pastor: Yes, _____. A bright light must surely have a strong connection to the power of Jesus. Each one of us needs to work at continually learning more and more about how Jesus can influence our words and actions in our daily living. His teachings bring power to us. You are on the right path to follow Him. The next comment will be from _____.

Youth : I want to be a light like a glow stick! How fun!

Gabe: _____, you are a light like a glow stick! You make each one of us smile! Your joy and happiness shine brightly. Your faith lights a path to praise God for his goodness and faithfulness. You have learned how to let your light shine for all the world to see! Praise God! _____ has a comment to share.

Youth: There are so many types of lights in our lives. Jesus mentions a city on a hill and a lamp in a household. These are very practical examples. I like to think of the glow of a

candle in our kitchen when the electricity goes out. Just plain practical. Not a giant light, but just enough to safely guide our steps in the darkness.

Youth 1: You're right, _____, maybe not enormous or dazzling, but just right at that time and situation. We all know many lights in our lives – not fancy, but just perfect at the right time to help. What other ideas do our followers have to offer?

Youth: The bright flashlight on my cell phone

Youth: A campfire

Youth : A full moon

Youth: A flashlight in the woods at Camp Blue Diamond

Youth: A nightlight in my bedroom

Youth: The light in the refrigerator

Youth: Stadium lights at the football field

Youth: Lightning in a storm

Youth: Flashing, blinking Christmas lights

Youth: The tiny light on a sewing machine

Youth: Lightning bugs

Youth: These are all great, but I just have to ask: What if I my light bulb isn't very bright? What if it is really on the dim side?

Youth 1: Wow_____! That is the question that all of us have and are afraid to say it out loud!

Pastor: I think the brightness of your bulb is not the most important aspect of your light. Are you shining? Are you shining to your highest potential in the correct location? Is Jesus the source of your power? Each light may be different – bright or not so bright or even dim.

Adult: The most important aspect of your light is that you use it to guide others to a closer walk with God.

Youth 1: I agree. If the lights are used for goodness, faithfulness, peace, mercy and grace, the type of light isn't really all that important.

Pastor: Yes, Jesus placed a light in each of us. Each light is slightly different, yet very valuable.

Adult: We are all called by Jesus to put our lights to work. Put them on a hill, put them on a table, put them on the front porch, put them in your refrigerator, just be sure to put them. Put them to good purposes and the glory will go to God. We are glad you could join us for this podcast of Chat at Church. This episode entitled "Am I a dim bulb?" challenges us to strengthen our connection to the power source of Jesus and let those lights shine. May our lights shine brighter each day, for God's glory. Let us sing Hymn #402, Christian, Let your Burning Light.