

**Week Three: *Open Doors***  
***Matthew 5:14-16***

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. When you were growing up, did you have neighbors on your street or a friend that always seemed to have friends and family hanging out? (Maybe this was your house.) Did you like hanging out in that house? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever taken the Myers-Briggs or other personality assessment? Did the assessment determine if you were an introvert or extrovert? Did you agree with the assessment?
3. For some people, having open doors comes naturally; for others it's a struggle. We know that our own personal bent can make us more or less comfortable. Why might it be beneficial even for introverts to have open doors?
4. Jesus had an interesting perspective on this. Read Matthew 5:14-16. How did Jesus say we were to live?
5. For many introverts, the idea of being a light is the last thing they want to be. After all, lights are usually where people are looking. But this is exactly where God wants us to be. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What promise does God make for us at the end of this passage?
6. How does this promise impact your willingness to live with an open door?
7. As you finish your FIFTEEN, consider that God is with you wherever you go. Ask him to remind you of that fact whenever you are faced with stepping out of your comfort zone.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. Have you ever been in deep darkness? Like the true darkness of a cave or a power outage? How did that feel?
9. While you were in the darkness, did you notice the disproportionate power of a small light? It seems as though the greater the darkness, the more power even a small light has. Look again at Matthew 5:14-16. What can a light do?
10. It's funny how people can be like a light in the darkness. Sometimes the smallest light can make the biggest difference; it's just a matter of where it is placed. Why might shining your light in your home be more powerful than out in public?
11. One of the reasons that a light in the darkness is so bright is because it is the sole focus of the room. When you invite someone into your home, it is easier to focus on them. What kind of distractions get in the way of connecting with others when you meet out in a public place?

12. Does knowing this make it easier for you to consider inviting others in or harder? Explain your answer.
13. Now read John 8:12. Who is the true light of the world?
14. How can we use Jesus to help us shine our light?
15. It can be so intimidating to let others into our home to shine light. But as we remember from yesterday, Jesus is with us, and he is the light of the world. All we need to do is to reflect his light. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer by asking Jesus to help you to grow to be more like him.

### **Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three**

16. Yesterday we talked about reflecting Jesus' light. Brainstorm a list of things that you can do to show Jesus' love to others.
17. At Pathfinder Church, we talk about *Living the Six*. "Live the SIX other DAYS serving God by serving others. Every minute of every day is an opportunity to live as God's representatives in the world. Whether in our neighborhoods, at school, on the job, with friends, on the field, or out in the community, we have been uniquely positioned to reflect God's love in the world as we serve others." When *Living the Six* was sketched out, it was largely based on Matthew 5:14–16. How does knowing that you have the opportunity to share God's love whenever you go impact how you interact with others?
18. Yesterday we talked about one reason that opening your doors to welcome others in is important. What other reasons might be even more powerful to welcome people into your home?
19. Maybe welcoming people into your home is easy for you. Maybe it's a short-term commitment with which you are pretty comfortable. Would it be a bigger challenge for you to let someone into your circle? What's the difference between inviting someone into your home and allowing them into your circle?
20. Read John 17:6-19. One of the most intimate prayers Jesus prays is for his disciples before his crucifixion. What are some of the things Jesus asked God in his prayer?
21. It's interesting to note that Jesus' closest friends, those in his circle, had been welcoming people all throughout Jesus' ministry. And he expected them to keep on doing it after he was gone. As you finish your FIFTEEN, think about your circle. Give God a prayer of thanks for your circle.

### **Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four**

22. Are you more comfortable being a guest at someone else's home or hosting in your own? Explain your answer.

23. When you are a guest, what do hosts do that makes you feel more comfortable?
24. Hospitality was a central value in Hebrew culture. Read Genesis 18:1-8, one of many accounts of Abraham's hospitality. Have you ever experienced hospitality as gracious as Abraham's? What were the circumstances? How did it make you feel?
25. Thinking about Abraham's example again. Have you ever displayed such hospitality to others? Why or why not?
26. Abraham's hospitality was especially gracious because he made his guests feel as though they were part of his family. Brainstorm a list of ways that people can feel as though they are a part of your family, whether they are a guest in your home or in any environment.
27. Read Romans 12:9-11. What is required to show love to others?
28. Looking at the list you brainstormed about ways to welcome people. Which ones would fit well into this category?
29. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to help you see opportunities to welcome others into your life and home.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

30. Can you think of someone that you would describe as authentic? What qualities do they possess that makes you think of them?
31. Look again at Matthew 5:14-16. What happens when we shine our light before men?
32. What happens when we do the opposite? When instead of showing our good deeds, we admit our failures?
33. Read Proverbs 28:12-14. What do those who confess their sins find?
34. When we are honest and transparent, we find mercy. Read the following verses; note what often comes with mercy. Psalms 25:6, Psalm 40:11, Ephesians 2:4, Jude 1:2.
35. So often when we extend mercy, love grows; when love is present, mercy follows. How much deeper our connections are to one another when mercy and love are mutually shared. Close your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you offer and revive mercy in order to love more deeply.