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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for Sunday, February 5, 2017*

*5th Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lectionary Year A*

**Scripture:** [Matthew 5:13-20](#) [Summary: *We Are Made To Shine God's Light* ]

**Supplies Needed:** A non-transparent bag with a flashlight that is in it and turned on

**ASK** (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning
- [*Hold up the bag with flashlight in it*] Can you tell me what this is? (A bag!)
- It *is* a bag! And it is carrying something special inside of it. Can you tell me what is inside of it? (No, because we can't see inside the bag!)
- Oh, right ... you can't see inside the bag! Here – what if I take thing thing OUT of the bag, then can you tell me what I have? [*Take flashlight out of bag*] (It's a flashlight!)
- Is the flashlight on? (Yes)
- And what do flashlights help you do? (See in the dark!)
- So what do you think ... Even when they are on, do flashlights help you see in the dark when they are in a bag like this? (No)

**TELL** (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- In today's scripture story, Jesus is telling his disciples that they are the light of the world.
- In other words, Jesus is telling his disciples that they are to be flashlights that shine God's light, love, and healing.
- And in so doing, they will help everyone around them see God's better way for us to live.
- And when we can see God's better way for us to live, then the idea is that there would be more peace, love and patience in the world.

- In other words, we wouldn't be bumping into each other and pushing each other and not liking each other as much, right?
- Which is why Jesus also tells his disciples to not hide God's light, to not keep what they know of God in a bag where it can't be seen, but to let it shine!
- Because, the whole point of a flashlight is to help people see. It does no good if you leave a flashlight turned on, but hidden the whole time.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- So, the same thing that Jesus told his disciples in today's scripture story is also true for us.
- We, too, can invite God's light into our lives.
- And then, just like Jesus' disciples, we, too, can be flashlights for God and help those around us better see and know God's light, love, and healing.
- That is the Good News for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God...**

Dear God...

**Thank you for Jesus...**

Thank you for Jesus...

**...who teaches us...**

...who teaches us...

**...how to receive and share...**

...how to receive and share...

**...your light, love, and healing.**

...your light, love, and healing.

**Thank you and Amen.**