



...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16



Can you remember a time when someone noticed you were struggling before you told them? What difference did being noticed make?

1. **Read Genesis 12:1-3.** What stands out to you about God's promise to Abraham that "I will bless you... and you will be a blessing"?
 - Why do people sometimes assume God's blessings are primarily for their own comfort or success?
 - Think about how God has blessed you – how could this blessing be used by God for others?
 - When do passages like Ephesians 2:10 and 1 Peter 4:10-11 teach us about our gifts and blessings from God?
2. In **Matthew 5:13-16** Jesus says we are salt and light – why do you think Jesus uses salt and light as examples?
 - What is it in verse 16 that people should see in our lives, and how/why would that point to Jesus?
 - How can practical acts of kindness help people see something of Jesus?
 - Think about a place where you spend the most time outside of your home and Church – what would it look like for that place to become better because you are there?

3. Think of Israel's circumstances in **Jeremiah 29:4-7** why would God's command seem counterintuitive?
- What does this teach us believers about how we should react/respond even in places and situations we don't like?
 - Where has God placed you right now? (neighbourhood, workplace, school, university, sporting club, social circles etc.) What specific need can you identify in that place?
 - The Hebrew idea of shalom includes peace, wellbeing, wholeness, and flourishing. What would "seeking shalom" look like in your everyday environment?
4. Jesus is described as someone who "went around doing good" (**Acts 10:38**) think about the people Jesus encountered in the Gospels – who did He engage with that others overlooked?
- How can we develop this habit in our own lives?
 - Ps Stan said, **You don't have to change the whole community. Make your corner better.** Who is one person you could notice, encourage, serve, include or help this week?
 - What is one practical action you can take this week, rather than simply having good intentions?

Are we for our community?

5. The message asks: "If you disappeared tomorrow, would your community miss you?" What do you think that question is really getting at?
6. As a group, what is one way you could collectively serve or bless people in your community over the coming month?

Spend some time praying:

- The places where God has already positioned each person. Local schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods, and community organisations
 - Eyes to see needs and opportunities.
 - Courage to serve and build relationships.
 - Opportunities for people to experience the hope of Jesus through you.
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