




Lamp Under a Basket

You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ~ Matthew 5:14-16

Discover the Context Matthew 5:13-20

 Why does this passage say that when people see us they will glorify our Father? What are some things you have been saying and doing that could possibly cause people to glorify you instead of God?

 If you are responsible for camper devotions, you can take a candle or flashlight into your tent or cabin. Set it out so that it lights up the area. Read today's key verses and then place a basket or box over the light. Talk about the importance of Christians shining their light into the darkness so others may see their faith and want it too.

 Pray that the light of Christ in you will penetrate the darkness of the world. Confess your sins to God so that your light isn't covered up.

Did you ever pick up a flashlight in a time of need, only to find it was so dim that it was useless? Everything was there—bulb, switch, battery—but the flashlight had lost its effectiveness and couldn't accomplish the purpose for which it was designed.

Perhaps you may be feeling like that flashlight. Once you were strong and bright, but at the present time you feel dim and useless.

Could it be you have quenched the Spirit through slander or gossip? Perhaps you have become too proud or too self-serving to meet the needs of others. Maybe you have been unfaithful with your prayer life or quiet time. Are you angry or bitter because of a staff decision that hasn't gone your way? Perhaps you have become disrespectful. Any one of these sin issues could be the basket that has been put over your lamp, so to speak.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you have been called out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). You are called to walk, no longer in the darkness of your sins, but in the light of confession and fellowship because of the forgiveness of Christ (1 John 1:7). You are to abide in the light, and you can show this by loving those around you (1 John 2:10).

Camp is a great place to be the light of the world. How are your camp relationships? Can others see the light and love of Christ in your words and actions? Ask Christ to lift the basket burden you are carrying.

Oh, that our lamps would be a bright beacon to a lost, dark, and dying world! May others see our lights and realize that it is only because of Jesus Christ; in fact, the light really is Jesus in us. Let his love shine through you so that others will glorify our Father in heaven. Don't be comfortable under the basket; be the city on a hill. (JRC)