

IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR **GOOD DEEDS** **SHINE** OUT FOR ALL TO **SEE**, SO THAT EVERYONE WILL **PRAISE** YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

EP 11

MATTHEW 5:16

**GOOD
DEEDS
SHINE
SEE
PRAISE**

If you were Jewish and living in Israel during the first century, you knew a Messiah was coming. Reminders of God's promise to send such a One came often—both at the temple and in casual conversation. Romans occupied your country; for most people, a liberator couldn't show up soon enough.

And then ... Jesus. Jesus, who could perform miracles. Jesus, who taught about God in a fresh, intimate way. Jesus, who confirmed He *was* the Messiah.

Jesus, who sometimes raised as many questions as He answered.

Matthew wrote his gospel to answer some of those questions: Who Jesus was. What He'd said and done. Where He was from and where He'd gone.

And what Jesus expected from those who followed Him.

That's where you and your family come in. The expectations Jesus shared with His followers in Matthew's day haven't changed—and they include living in a way that causes observers to scratch their heads and wonder, *What is it with these people? Why are they so generous and caring?*

The expectation is that our transformed actions will mirror the transformation in our hearts—drawing people's attention from us to the God who's changing us.

Whew—that's a tall order!

The key isn't to launch into a family program of good deeds. Anyone can do that—and for a long list of unfortunate reasons: to impress others, to gain votes, to spiff up the college admission application.

What Jesus is talking about is *heart* transformation that leads to transformed actions. That's what you're exploring this week with your family: not just the "what" of good deeds, but the "why."

So, expect this to be a stretching week—and one that draws you closer to the heart of God.