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lesson 2 living quarters

Matthew 5:14-16 ~ “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 lamp stand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

*On it's own, a lighthouse would eventually fade away. You probably wouldn't notice on the outside at first. Small things would begin to come in (animals and bugs). Eventually, the light would burn out. Over time it would crack and fall. The lighthouse must be kept up with from the inside out on a regular basis. The Bible doesn't necessarily use the example of a lighthouse, but it does use the example of a temple.

I. Background of the Temple (OT)

- A. This was the HOLY place where offerings could be made
- B. Only the PRIESTS could enter to the center called the “Holy of Holies”
- C. Jesus' dying on the cross gave us a direct access to Him so the temple was not needed
-Hebrews 4:15-16
- D. WE are now the temple (I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20)

*Look over the 2 verses in I Corinthians. What are some things we learn from this?

- God's Spirit lives in us
- God takes our “temples” very seriously
- our temple should be holy...therefore we will be holy
- God paid a big price for His Spirit to live in our “temple”
- our “temples” should glorify God inside and out

II. How to Treat the Temple (Matthew 23:25-28)

-show video & compare to keeping church clean on inside (how it affects worship & people)

Give the good and bad ways to keep up with our “temple” in these areas:

- A. Physically?
 - smoking, overeating, drugs, alcohol, laziness, sexual sins
 - exercise, purity
- B. Spiritually?
 - not spending time in God's Word or at church
 - feeding yourself through God's word
- C. Mentally?
 - filling our mind with hatred, jealousy, lust, etc.
 - keeping our mind's on the things of God (Philippians 4:8)
- D. Emotionally?
 - worry
 - being content with who God has made us and our situations

Conclusion/Illustration- Give everyone bag with card and write what they want to be filled with.