

# IT'S NOT PLUGGED IN!

**Message:** Stay plugged in to God

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:16

**Prop:** A small lamp (preferably a desk lamp)



I want to show you my desk lamp today. My old one konked out so I had to get a new one, and I couldn't wait to show you. Here it is... *(Describe your lamp.)* As you can see, it's a nice shiny red and there are a couple of cool things about it. First it has a flexible goose neck so you can turn it in any direction. You can turn it to the right...or to the left...or up to the ceiling...But I like to just keep it pointed down toward my desk so I have light to write by.

The other cool thing is how bright it is. Let me turn it on and show you. I'll just press the switch here... *(Press the switch, but because the lamp isn't plugged in, it won't go on.)* Uh oh! It's not working! Let me check the bulb... *(Ignore the children as they try to tell you that it's not plugged in.)* No, the bulb's OK. Maybe it's the switch. *(Turn switch on and off a few times.)* The switch feels alright.

*(As children continue to insist that it's not plugged in say:)* It's what? It's not plugged in? No wonder! The light won't shine if it's not plugged in, will it? Well, you know, it's kind of like us. Let me read you what Jesus said in Matthew 5:16. "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise the Father in heaven."

Of course, he's not talking about a light like this desk lamp. He's talking about us. When we do good deeds we're like a light showing the way to God. But just like this lamp, our light won't shine unless we're plugged in – to God. We do that by praying every day, by studying the Bible, by attending church every week and by obeying God. When we stop doing those things we become unplugged from God, and our light won't shine the way it should.

So we need to stay plugged in to God if we want our light to shine.

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, help us to stay plugged in to you so that our light will shine before men and light the way to you. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.