

The Case for Christ
Part 3: Explaining the Good News
Matthew 5:13-16

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12 (NIV)

The Faith Formula: Believe + Receive = Become

1. Before Jesus would talk to His neighbors about the Heavenly Father, He would talk to His Heavenly Father about His neighbors.

“When I pray, coincidences happen. When I stop, they don’t.” Mother Teresa

- If God were to answer every prayer you prayed last week, would there be anybody new in His **Kingdom**?

2. Jesus would let the neighbors know the door is always open for questions.

²⁰“John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’” ... ²² So [Jesus] replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” ... ²⁸ “I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John.” Luke 7:20,22,28

3. Jesus would live out an authentic faith.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good [*winsome and attractive*] deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. “ Matthew 5:16

- If your neighbors know you are a Christian, if they know you go to church, they have their **Hypocrisy Radar** scanning your life.