

Checking In

1. Getting to know each other- have you been in place of Total Darkness? How did you feel being in total darkness?
2. Church Life- Sept 29th Outreach Seminar, Oct 13th All Church Service Project, Trunk or Treat, Oct 31st.

Learning

Key Doctrines

- God's Omnipresence - God is in every dark place but there is no darkness in Him (1Jn 1:5; Ja 1:17; Jere 23:23-24).
God's being present everywhere at all times is a sobering reality but how is it a source of comfort for you?
- Sin – The fall of man has put the whole world under the curse of death (Rom 5:8).

Key Observations

- Was there anything that stood out to you about this week's sermon, what challenged you?
- *Read:* Matthew 5: 13-16, Phil 4:8, II Cor 2:15-17.
Salt has several properties it acts as a preservative, an antiseptic and it gives flavor to food. How do each of these represent our role as believers on this earth?

One main idea Jesus had in mind when He used this metaphor because He speaks of "its savor." Remember, Jesus had just blessed those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" (5:6), and this imagery suggests that the presence of conscientiously godly people in society will have the natural effect of arousing an appetite for God and a thirst for righteousness.

Too much salt is one place will ruin a food, Jesus expects up to be out in the world (Matt 28:19-20) not all clumped together

- *Read:* Genesis 18:22-33

How does this story illustrate what it means to be salt?

Christians in the midst of an evil and decaying society have a similar preserving and purifying effect. God told Abraham that He would have preserved Sodom from judgment if there had been just ten righteous people — a little salt — in their midst.

- *Read:* Matthew 5: 13-16, Jn 12:35-36, I Jn 1:5-9

How does Jesus describe our role as light? In what ways are you tempted to hide your light? Light exposes darkness, how is this a challenge for you?

Salt and light expose decay and darkness. If we are light, that means our life should be so beautiful that when it comes into contact with other parts of the environment, the beauty of our life shows up other things for what they really are. If your life, by its order, by the way in which you handle pressure, by the way in which you take criticism, by the way in which you treat the people who work under you, if you are like Jesus Christ, the beauty of that is going to show up the reality of the environment. As a Christian, then just by our very presence, we reveal the dishonesty in business, we reveal the gossip in the office, the racism in your neighborhood, the relationships promiscuity.

- *Read:* Matthew 5:16, James 2:14-21, Col 1:10-12

How are being light and doing good deeds inseparable connected?

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds," there are two Greek words that can be used for good, *agathos* and *kalos*. *Agathos* means good in quality, and *kalos* means beautiful, and it's *kalos* that's used here. It says your deeds ought to be beautiful. People ought to say, "Amazing!" Is your life so remarkable that it shows up the contrast between the beauty of Christ and what's around you, or do you blend in, and there is nothing remarkable about your life at all, and there's nothing about you that stands out?

- *Read:* John 8:12, John 1:4-5,

What is the source of our light? How can we stay connected to the source?

Listening

Responding to God

In light of this week's sermon in our series, "City on a Hill," how might God be calling you to live as salt and light?

- Are there specific ways that the Lord is calling get out of the “salt shaker”?
- Are there specific ways that the Lord is calling you to turn up the brightness of your light?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?

Jesus doesn't say we're like the sun or we're like the stars, because suns and stars have light in themselves. We are lamps, and a lamp cannot produce light; a lamp can only hold light. That means Jesus is implying very strongly here what's stated elsewhere, and that is Jesus Christ himself is the light of the world, and you become the light of the world only as you are lit by him. Your light is derived. You are a lamp. You're not the sun.

Now when Jesus is called the light of the world in John 1, when he calls himself the light of the world in John 8, just briefly, what does that mean? Number one, it means he is the truth. The truth illuminates. The truth makes all things conspicuous. Secondly, it means he is gloriously good. He cannot lie. He cannot cheat. He cannot do anything evil. He is beautiful in his glory. He is beautiful in his loveliness. That's why we call him light. Then, thirdly, he is light, meaning he guides us to reality.

When he says, “I am the light of the world,” he is saying, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Jesus is the light and thus all the other religions do not really possess light.

- *Read: Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message translation)*
What new insights do you gain from this translation?
What does it mean to bring out the “God-Colors” in the world?

A good light shows you real color, right? Have you ever noticed that sometimes you pull out a pair of socks, and you can't tell if they're blue or black, and you look in one light and you still can't tell, and you have to come to a good light in order to tell whether it's blue or black?

A real good light shows you the real colors. If we Christians walking like Jesus Christ, then the beauty of our life shows everybody around us what is good and what is bad

¹³ “Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ “Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.