

Checking In

1. Getting to know each other- Have you ever 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

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- God's Omnipresence - God is in every dark place but there is no darkness in Him (1Jn 1:5; Ja 1:17; Jer 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 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? What might be a creative way you could be salt to others?

- *Read: Genesis 18:22-33*
How does this story illustrate what it means to be salt?
- *Read: Matthew 5: 13-16, John 12:35-36, I John 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, what fears do you have?
- *Read: Matthew 5:16, James 2:14-21, Col 1:10-12*
How are being light and doing good deeds inseparable connected?
- *Read: John 8:12, John 1:4-5,*
What is the source of our light? How can we stay connected to the source? What does Jesus mean when he says, "Whoever follows me ... will have the light of life"?
- *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?

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.

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*)?