

Home Group Notes
Week of September 26, 2021
The Church is Salt, Light, and a City



LOOKING BACK

Take some time to share your high and lows from this week (low points & high points)

Of the four metaphors we've taken a look at in this series (the Lord's body, the temple of God, citizens of Heaven, and salt, light, and city), which has meant to the most to you personally?

Is there anything in our series on the church that has really gotten you attention? Either encouraging, challenging, or convicting you?

READ & DISCUSS SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

Matthew 5:1-12 is often referred to as the "Beatitudes." Read this passage and underline the various ways Jesus describes those who are His followers. What "beatitude" would you like to see the Lord grow and transform in you?

Read Matthew 5:13-16 and circle the three descriptors Jesus uses for His followers. What do these descriptions tell us about the world we live in?

In his message, Pastor Todd said, *"We're either living intentionally, effectively as salt and light and a city or we're not living out who we are."* How do you practically seek to live intentionally and effectively as an ambassador of Jesus in your spheres of influence (family, work, community, church, etc.)? What challenges do you have in doing this?

Read Matthew 5:13. When you think about being salt for Jesus, what comes to your mind? Why would the world need the church to be the salt of the earth? How concerned are you when it comes to the decay of the world and culture around you?

What are some ways in which we as Christians can have our saltiness diluted and lose our effect and impact on the world and culture around us? How is your “saltiness” level today? What is helping you maintain your salty influence? What is diluting your salty influence?

Read John 8:12, 9:5, and Ephesians 5:8-10. Where do we as the Church get our light? How do you actively seek to shine your light for others to see? What are some ways we as Christians can “hide or dim our witness” Jesus? In this current season of life, where do you want to shine the light of Jesus brightest in (marriage, kids, home, work, community, church, other relationships, etc.)

Read Matthew 5:16. As Christians, what is our motivation in having the world see our light or good works? How does our motivation for God’s glory differ from others who are doing good works in our community and world?

How would you like to practically and tangibly glorify the Father this week in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Please pray for our global partners who are living as sojourners in other lands
- Please pray for our High Schoolers facing a tough world
- Please pray for our Elders, Pastors, and Directors as they shepherd us