

Leader Corner

Pass the Salt

Matthew 5:13-16

The old adage, "Actions speak louder than words," does share a great deal of truth. As Christians, we *do* need to speak truth; that is essential. But if we don't *do* what we preach, believe and teach, those who don't know Christ will view not only us as shams, but regard the gospel of Christ with doubt, unbelief and lack of interest. How would the world see and taste the glory of God if we lived out good works in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?

Main Idea: Pass the Salt: *We thoughtfully consider the perspective of outsiders in all we do.*

Main Practice: Ask Good Questions. While staying true to the gospel, thoughtfully consider the perspective of outsiders by seeking out and engaging the perspective of others in everyday decision making.

Main Teaching: Matthew 5:13-16

Connect with Prayer & Praise

With Praise: Read, sing or meditate on the first verse of the hymn, "You are the Light of the World" by R.J. Craig:

You are the light of the world,
Driving the darkness away,
Shedding your beams on the lost,
Changing their night into day.
Then let your light ever shine,
Showing the right way to go,
Glad the lost ones will see...
God's boundless love they will know.

With Prayer: Have someone pray for your time together and your discussion. Use this prayer if you wish:

Heavenly Father, fill us with the salt and light of the good news of Christ's redeeming accomplishments and help us to thoughtfully spread the good news to those in our lives in both word and deed for the purposes of Jesus Christ. Amen.

with Principle

1. Read aloud Matthew 5:13-16.
2. Discuss any questions that Sunday's sermon brought to mind about this passage.
3. In this passage, Jesus presents two metaphors of how His followers will be witnesses to the world. What do you know about salt? Why would Jesus use this metaphor? What do you know about light? How does it reveal Jesus' mission?
4. As salt, what are some of God's counter-cultural values and actions that we are to live out in order to preserve the world we live in? Helpful scriptures: Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:43-45, 6:14-15, Mark 12:28-30, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.
5. Salt also adds seasoning and enjoyment for the full flavor of food. How does our witness reflect this enhancement of life? Discuss considering Psalm 100, Matthew 13:44-46, John 10:10, 15:11, Ephesians 3:17-19.
6. Theologian Dallas Willard points his readers to 1 Thessalonians 5:5 where disciples of Christ are called "Children of Light." He then outlines scripture passages in the New Testament that reflect what children of light look like. Review and discuss two of these passages: Romans 12:1-21, and 1 John 4:7-8, 19-21.
7. Jesus states, "That they may see your good works." He didn't say, "That they may see your judgmentalism, your self-righteousness, your pride, or your perfectionism." What's the result of seeing good works? Who are these good works for? Discuss this concept while considering the following scriptures: 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17, Ephesians 2:10, 1 Timothy 6:17-18, Hebrews 10:24.

with Practice

This week's attitude is to "Pass the Salt." More specifically *we thoughtfully consider the perspective of outsiders in all we do*. Set aside some group time to examine your life for areas in which you fall short and those where you excel.

-Specifically, whose perspective do you look for? Why?

-Whose perspective do you ignore? Why?

-As a group, spend some time praying. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide each of you toward a person, that you could seek out their perspective on life, on Jesus, or even on a social topic. Take time to allow a name to come to mind.

-Ask your group members to share who came to mind and why.

-Finally, break into smaller groups (2-3) and prayer over that specific person. As a smaller group, commit to seeking out a way to engage this person in the coming week.

for Further Study

To be salt and light in the world, we must understand these words in their biblical and gospel terms. Commit yourself to studying scripture, and ask God, through the Holy Spirit, to teach you these things.

Jesus is not calling us to rub salt into wounds or put others under the spotlight of examination. These tasks are best left to the Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:8-11). While we can't ignore sin, how should we approach sin in this world? Study and apply these scriptures: Matthew 7:5, John 7:24, Romans 2:1, James 4:11, 2 Timothy 4:2.