



Salt Of The Earth

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GROUP ICE BREAKER

Are you “less is more” or “there’s never enough” when it comes to salt on your food?

REVIEW LAST WEEK’S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will not judge others because I don’t know their story.
- I will not be afraid when evil comes my way.
- I will live like God is as close as the air I breathe.
- I will not pay back evil for evil.
- I will overcome evil with good.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

What was the central point Jesus was making when He said, “You’re the salt of the earth?” It can be summarized in three words: Make a difference. Jesus, when talking to an undistinguished crowd of people, says that God’s plan to protect the world from decay and corruption, to purify it and bring whatever flavor it’s going to have is his followers.

Now, there are sobering implications to this, one of which is: *Salt does not exist for its own sake*. Salt’s calling is to lose itself in something more than itself. That’s when it fulfills its purpose. The other implication is if you’re salt, and you’re going to be used, *you’ve got to get out of the saltshaker*. Another way to put that is you’ve got to say a little prayer, “God, use me.”

Now, the good news is that when someone in God’s community gets salty, it becomes contagious. Other people look at you and are reminded that they want their lives to make a difference too. There’s a surprise in the section we’re looking at, and that is everyday people can make a difference. Not necessarily in spectacular, headline grabbing ways, but in practical everyday ways.

Now, how do you become a person who makes a difference? Jesus says in John 5:15, “I am the vine and you are the branches.” To be the salt of the earth you have to abide in Christ. So here’s a question: How is your walk with Christ these days? If you want to be the salt of the earth, you’ve got to spend time with God on a daily basis.

So, here’s what we’re going to do. Your job for the next several days is to say that little prayer, “God use me.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is someone that in your opinion is making a difference in the world today and in what way?
2. Read John 3:30. Salt does not exist for its own sake, but fulfills its purpose when lost in something more than itself. In living a Christ-centered life, how do you address the tension of “losing yourself” with the cultural idea of making a name for yourself?
3. Share a time you prayed, “God, use me,” and what happened; or why you have hesitated to pray this prayer.
4. Read John 15:1-8. What are the keys to abiding in Jesus? What are the results of abiding and not abiding?
5. What are some of the things that keep you from having the effect in your culture that you know God wants you to have?
6. What is one thing you can do this week to be a difference-maker at home, in your neighborhood, or at work?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will live as the salt of the earth.
- I will continue to pray, “God, use me” until he shows me how he wants me to make a difference in this world.
- I will die to this culture and be fully available to be used by God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 5:13
- Psalm 16:10
- John 5:15
- Colossians 4:6

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

- [A Deeper Look At the Sermon on the Mount: Living Out the Way of Jesus](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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