

Creating a Disciple-Making Culture
August 9th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Matthew 5:13-16

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Read Matthew 5:1-16. Why did Jesus use this illustration of salt and light to apply the Beatitudes? Why is salt and light essential to life? Why is it a perfect illustration of God's intention for the life of the Church?
2. What is the role of the church in society? What are the extremes that need to be avoided as it relates to our interaction with the world around us?
 - Do you ever just want to get away from everyone? If so where would you want to go? Why would some Christians believe we are to hide from the world and ignore it? Do you struggle with this?
 - Do you ever feel like you are in danger of accepting and approving things in our society that are offensive to God? Why do some Christians struggle with being conformed to the patterns of this world? Do you struggle with this? How can we avoid this?
3. It has always been God's will to speak to a group of people through a group of people. How does the Old Testament illustrate God's desire for a people to represent him? How has mankind consistently failed in this? How does the life and death of Jesus, along with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, give us hope that we can once again play the role that God created us to play in society?
4. We have to find a way to influence the world without being influenced negatively by their sin and corruption. So what are three ways your family and our church can do this?

“If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples.”

-Mike Breen

NEXT STEPS

- As you think through your life and walk with the Lord, was there a person or group of people who served as a “City on a Hill” for you? Who can you think of who tangibly put Christ on display for you?
- As you think through where God has you now, are you in a position to serve as a “city on a hill” for anyone else? Can you put Jesus on display by yourself, or is community essential?
- Ephesians 4:15 instructs us, “Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” What does it look like to be a people who speak the truth in love?
 - What happens if you speak truth without love?
 - What happens if you “love” without speaking truth?
 - Which one of those is more natural to you? How can you find balance, and how does this allow you to influence others for Christ?