



## Dgroup Discussion Guide for August 12, 2018

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

***You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden, nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.***

To live without a purpose is one of the greatest tragedies in the world, but to live with the wrong purpose is so much worse. We would be wasting our precious life if we are not living for the right purpose.

Jesus gave us the purpose of life based on the eight Beattitudes Matthew 5:1-10. He then urged His followers to practice these eight principles of Christlikeness in order for them to live out their purpose to be the “salt and light” of the world.

### YOU ARE THE SALT OF TH EARTH Matthew 5:13

Today, we may take forgranted the use of salt, but in the time of Jesus, they understood its value. It is used as a preservative, antiseptic and flavoring. Salt was crucial for survival. In fact, Roman soldiers were often paid with salt for their salary. This is why “salary” comes from the Latin term “salarium” which comes from the word “salt.

#### Cases of

The world is decaying. According to research, the cases of suicide, divorce, incarceration, HIV and teenage pregnancy are growing in numbers. The decaying world obviously needs salt.

If the meat is rotting, do not blame the meat. When the world is decaying, do not blame the world. The question to ask is, where is the salt that shall delay the decay? So the answer to the decaying world is not technology, not the politicians or the government, but the salt of the earth, us the followers of Christ.

Throughout history, Christians as the salt of the earth, have significantly made an impact to the world – from children, women, health, education, economics, arts, music and law. Christians gave children the right to live, fought for women to be heard and counted in society, introduced health and sanitation, abolished slavery, established the first universities and orphanages, wrote the principles of private property and hard work, etc.

Chemically speaking, salt of sodium chloride is a stable compound. But when salt is mixed with impurities or is contaminated, it will lose it saltiness and it will be good for nothing. (Matthew 5:13)

The Bible warns us that we should not copy the world and get ourselves contaminated or else we will lose our saltiness. To be Christ-like is to be set apart, to be distinctly different. Do not be too friendly with the world that people cannot see anymore our difference from the world. To live out our purpose of being salt and light, we need to stay pure in Jesus, preach the Word of God, and refuse compromising

our moral life. People may not like us at first, but if the fruit of the Holy Spirit is evident in us (Galatians 5:22-23) they will be attracted to know Jesus.

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Matthew 5:14)

***You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*** Light is not for itself. The very purpose of light is to brighten up the darkness, to reveal the truth and to help people see it.

Jesus is the very Light of the world (John 8:12). Therefore we can only become the light of the world when Jesus is in us, for how can we be Christ-like without Christ?

If we are true followers of Jesus, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so when people look at us, they are to see Jesus. Sadly, there are so many who call themselves Christians today but they are not really following Christ. If we are true Christians, we have Jesus in us who transforms us, and gives us the desire and power to live like Him. The light of Jesus shines in our lives to let people see Him in us, so that we may glorify our God who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

The world is dark and people are in darkness. But the good news is, the darker it is, the brighter the presence of the light becomes. Even a small light can dispel the greatest of darkness.

HOW TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

How do we live out our purpose as the salt and light of the world? Be Christ-like, be intentional, assume responsibility, work excellently, go beyond expectations, gain the respect of people and share Christ.

The world will not come to us, we must go out to them; the salt must go outside the salt shaker. Light, set on top of the hill cannot be hidden. Whether we are at home, in the workplace and elsewhere, let us live out our purpose. Be the salt and light of the world for the glory and honor of the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Salt and Light. What does it mean to you to be the Light and the Salt of the Earth? How are you living out your life as the salt of the earth and the light of the world?
2. Finding Purpose. What is your purpose in life? Is it aligned to God's purpose for you?
3. Do you know people who are "decaying" or seem to be lost in darkness? How can you live out God's mission for you to them? What is holding you back from fulfilling this purpose?