

Small Group Questions

Sermon Based Small Groups – February 27, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

Sermon Title: Pass the Salt

Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Citizens in the Kingdom of Heaven

Pray: Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

Ice Breaker: Pastor Brian began this week's sermon by talking about how normal the disciples were. He asked us if there was ever a time when we wanted to be someone else. Did you ever want to be someone else when you were growing up? Who? Why?

Read: Matthew 5:13

Discuss: Out of all the people in the world, Jesus made it a point to say that His disciples, and only his disciples are the salt of the earth. Why do you think that Jesus chose to use the analogy of salt to describe His true followers?

There were three primary uses of salt in the time that Jesus walked the earth. Salt was a preservative, a purifier, and a seasoning. Take a few minutes to talk about how the church can be a preserving force, a purifier and a seasoning in today's world.

Use of Salt	How The Church Can Demonstrate This Use of Salt in Our Lives
Preservative	
Purifier	
Seasoning	

Notes:

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Bible Study: There are many examples in Scripture of people who lived their life like the salt of the earth. When Jesus spoke with His disciples they may have thought back to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Read Daniel 1 and share at least five ways that these men lived as salt in their generation.

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The story of these four men doesn't conclude here. Read Daniel 3.

Discuss: What strikes you most about the way that these men lived their lives?

Last week, Pastor Brian spoke about the joy of persecution. It was immediately after sharing about the persecution that His followers would endure that Jesus spoke about being the salt of the earth. Being "salt" brought about intense persecution for Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. What does their example teach us about our duty as followers of God?

Read: Reread Matthew 5:13

Discuss: The verse ends with a warning about losing our saltiness. What are some ways that the contemporary church has lost her saltiness?

Pastor Brian read Revelation 2:4-5 when he preached his sermon this week. What was Jesus prescription for a church that has lost its saltiness?

Pray: As you pray this week, ask God to help you live as a person of salt in your generation. If you need to be re-salted, ask God to do a new work in your life, helping you fall in love with Him all over again.