



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 11/2/2025
DISCUSSION DATE: 11/9/2025
TEXT: MATTHEW 5:13-16

THE BELIEVER'S FUNCTION IN THE WORLD

I. THE PROBLEM

A. The world is decayed.

B. The world is dark.

II. GOD'S PLAN

A. Be salt.

B. Be light.

III. THE PURPOSE

FOR CONFERENCING

1. **Read Matthew 28:18-20.** Jesus spoke these words sometime during the 40 days He remained on the earth between His resurrection and ascension. What are Jesus' instructions in these verses? **Read Acts 1:8.** These were the very last words of Jesus before He ascended into heaven. Why is that significant? What are His instructions? **Read Matthew 5:13-16.** These are Jesus' words in a sermon He preached that marked the beginning of His public ministry. Why is that significant? In your own words, what was/is He instructing His disciples to do? What then is to be the believer's function in the world?
2. **Read John 17:15-18.** What did Jesus ask the Father to do for His disciples? Taking into account the context, why? Why have we been left in the world? What does it mean to be "not of the world?" For what purpose have we been sent into the world? **Read I John 2:15-17.** What is true about a person who is in love with the world and the things in the world? How does verse 17 connect or correlate with the commands of Matthew 28, Acts 1, & Matthew 5:13-16?
3. **Read Matthew 5:3-16.** How does living out the qualities of the beatitudes help you to be salt and light? Be thorough in your answer and perhaps address each beatitude separately and be prepared to discuss how they will help you to be a witness for Christ.
4. Why does this "earth" need us to be salt? Why does this world need us to be light?
5. The salt represents a preservative. How may we have a preserving influence on those around us? What does the light represent? What does it reveal and what does it reflect?
6. **Read Philippians 2:15.** Why are we to strive to be "blameless, harmless, and without fault?"
7. **Read Matthew 5:16.** For what purpose are we to be salt and light?