



The Great Hometown Commission  
Pastor Kevin Casey April 26, 2026  
Small Group Guide: Salt and Light in Society

### **Opening Prayer**

Begin your group time by asking God for wisdom, courage, and clarity as you discuss His call on the church to be salt and light in the world.

### **Icebreaker Question**

What is one area of your community (school, workplace, neighborhood) where you see a need for godly influence?

### **Key Takeaways from the Sermon**

1. Our Mission is Twofold: Know God AND make Him known
2. The Gospel is Good News: Jesus lived perfectly, died sacrificially, and rose victoriously so we could be saved
3. Salt and Light Require Action: The church must be involved in society, not isolated from it
4. Faithful Influence: We cannot abandon positions of authority in schools, city councils, and community leadership
5. Peace Time is Over: The challenges facing our nation require the church to stand up, show up, and speak up

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Section 1: Personal Salvation and Mission**

1. The pastor shared the full gospel message during this sermon. How would you explain the gospel to someone who has never heard it? Practice with your group.

2. Paul told Timothy to "do the work of an evangelist" even though he was a pastor. What does this tell us about every believer's responsibility to share the gospel?

3. The sermon mentioned that "God's kindness leads us to repentance" (Romans 2:4). How does this truth affect the way we share our faith with others?

## **Section 2: Cultural Engagement**

4. The pastor referenced **Fiddler on the Roof** and how the family focused on tradition while Nazis rose in the background. What are some modern parallels where the church might be "missing the bigger picture"?

5. Discuss this statement: "The shot heard around the world came from a church lawn." How does this historical fact challenge our modern understanding of the church's role in society?

6. John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people." What responsibility does this place on Christians today?

## **Section 3: Salt That Has Lost Its Saltiness**

7. Read Matthew 5:13-16 together. What does it mean for salt to "lose its saltiness"? How might the church be doing this today?

8. The pastor mentioned that many Christians say "we don't get involved in policy or politics." What is the difference between being politically partisan and being biblically faithful in the public square?

9. Where does Proverbs 29:2 ("When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan") apply in your local community right now?

## **Section 4: Excuses and Action**

10. Jesus addressed excuses in Luke 9:57-62. What are common excuses Christians give for not being more involved in their communities? Which ones resonate with you personally?

11. The sermon challenged: "Instead of complaining, criticizing and condemning, how much better would it be if we encouraged and challenged those working to do the right things?" How can we apply this practically?

### **Reflection Questions (Personal)**

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for individuals to consider:

- Have I truly surrendered my life to Jesus, or am I just "religious"?
- Where is God calling me to be salt and light that I've been avoiding?
- What fear or excuse has kept me from greater involvement in my community?

### **Practical Applications**

Individual Action Steps

Choose at least ONE action step to commit to this week:

- Share the Gospel: Identify one person who needs to hear the good news and pray for an opportunity to share
- Attend a Meeting: Go to one school board or city council meeting in the next month
- Support Righteousness: Find one person serving in community leadership and send them an encouraging note or message
- Get Informed: Research who is running in your next local election and their platforms
- Volunteer: Look for one opportunity to serve in your community (school, crisis pregnancy center, food bank, etc.)

- Prayer Walk: Walk through your neighborhood or city and pray for God's kingdom to come

### **Group Action Steps**

Consider one thing your group can do together:

- Prayer Team: Organize a group to attend and pray at a city council or school board meeting
- Community Service: Serve together at a local school or community organization
- Voter Education: Host an informational meeting about local candidates and issues (non-partisan, biblically-based)
- Support a Candidate: Identify a godly person running for local office and volunteer as a group
- Evangelism Training: Make sure you are at the FHC Evangelist Brian Essary meetings May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Memory Verse**

Proverbs 29:2 - "When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan."

### **Closing Discussion**

1. What is one thing God spoke to you about during this discussion?
2. How can we pray for each other regarding our call to be salt and light?
3. What is one specific way you will step out in faith this week?

### **Closing Prayer**

- Pray for boldness to share the gospel
- Pray for wisdom for those in leadership positions
- Pray for God to raise up righteous leaders in your community
- Pray for protection and courage for the church
- Pray for each person's specific commitment from tonight

**Before Next Week**

- Follow through on your action step
- Be prepared to share what happened when you stepped out in faith
- Continue praying for your community and nation

**Additional Resources for Further Study**

- Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission)
- Romans 10:13-15 (How shall they hear?)
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (Pray for those in authority)
- Jeremiah 29:7 (Seek the welfare of your city)