

onechurch bigIdea



Christianity started with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ left this earth, and he left behind His twelve disciples—and His disciples turned the world upside down! His disciples changed their world. Are we changing ours?

BIG IDEA: Salt and Light are only effective when they engage their surroundings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of light best describes each of the members in your group? For each of the lights below, choose a group member who best fits that category. Share these with each other to *affirm* each other.

CAMPFIRE LIGHT: You give warmth and light to the cold night

FLASHLIGHT: You direct light to the especially dark areas where it is needed most.

100-WATT BULB: Your personality lights up the room!

MOONLIGHT: You reflect well the light of the Son.

FIREPLACE LIGHT: You bring people together around your crackling warmth.

SUNLIGHT: You are a natural light that gives life to those around you.

NEON LIGHT: Your light brings personality, flash, and color to the group.

2. Read Acts 17:1-9. When Paul preached about Jesus, riots broke out. Why don't you think people respond that way today? Do you think people today respond more to the Gospel like a UFC match, or do they respond like a 1970's rerun on television?
3. Name all of the uses that someone might use for salt.
4. Consider salt and light. How do they function? Become useless? What prevails in their absence?

*When people collected salt during Jesus' day, they went to the Dead Sea, where salt lined the shores. As they were collecting the white salt granules, sometimes they also collected Gypsum, another white granule that looks just like salt. The problem with Gypsum is that it is extremely bitter. When Gypsum was mixed with the Salt, the bitterness overpowered the salty taste and it was good for nothing. **The salt was still salt, but it had become mixed and lost its power to flavor and preserve.***

The only thing this 'mixed salt' was used for was to patch the holes in roofs, where people stood around and lounged. Social activities happened on the roof, kids played on the roof, and wedding receptions occurred on the roof. People walked on this mixed salt.

5. Do you agree with this statement: *A Disciple who doesn't change the world will be trampled by this world?*
6. How then do Disciples penetrate society? Or become useless?
7. Is the light of your life shining like a 300-watt bulb? A 100-Watt? A night light? Why? How can this group enable you to shine brighter?
8. Is your lifestyle salty or saltless? Covered or open? Why?

VERSES TO GO DEEPER

Matthew 5, Acts 9, Acts 17, Acts 18, Acts 19, Acts 20:1-12