

**INTRO: Little House in the Big Woods.** Prepping for Winter. Some of y'all can imagine that now., Pa goes hunting. Deer and Pig/Hog. Salt and Smokehouse. Firelight. Simple living. This was just 1870's. 150 years ago. Before lights and electricity were invented. By 1925 only half of the US had electricity and lights. Which meant everything still had to be stored/preserved and fire/candles were our light. Salt & Light were absolutely essential items to preindustrial life.

## I. Salt

- A. **Preservative.** Helps keep it from spoiling. Going completely bad. You need plenty of it. You've got to cover it. It can be pretty over powering even.

**ILLUSTRATION: Country Ham.** Salted Pork. “Acch! PLaffff!”

- B. **Bettering.** Taste. Flavor. Remove some of the bitterness. Bring more joy and life to it.
- C. **The good news of Jesus spreads and kingdom grows.** Seasoning and adding flavor and goodness. Life can be enjoyed as a gift from God. So that we can savor it, enjoy it and find satisfaction in Him and not be bitter and poisoned by it.

**APPLICATION: It's been Christians who have shown up to help and serve and change the world.** Adopting orphans, Starting Hospitals, Feeding the Hungry, Clothing people, preaching racial justice, freeing the slaves, bringing abolition and ending the trade industry,

## II. Light

- A. **We are the light of the world as we reflect the Light of Jesus into a dark world.**

**ILLUSTRATION: Moon & Sun. Snake Hunting with a Mirror.**

- B. **We only illumine the darkness** by reflecting the glory of Jesus into the dark places of the world.
- C. **What's Hiding in the Dark.** Sometimes the light reveals what is hidden. Sin. Evil.
- D. We Shine light into darkness as we reflect the glory of God through our **love, mercy, grace, kindness in a dark world of sin, sadness and brokenness. Joy instead of despair. Peace instead of fear. Gratitude instead of anger. Love instead of hatred. Compassion instead of division/outrage.**
- E. **How we respond, react and enter in or even stay out of conversations/discourse or “silly arguments” as Paul called them.**

## III. God's Glory

- A. **Our contrast with the world brings Glory to God** because only He can save and change sinners.
- B. **When we have the opportunity to say thank you,** we can also say, I would never be like this or do this if God hadn't radically changed my life and shown me His grace.
- C. **Or if I did do it I did it for my own glory,** recognition, appreciation, feeling of accomplishment or pride, or respect, or just plain smugness of feeling superior as a servant or humble person.
- D. **Have you ever tried to do something really good without letting anyone know you did it?** Out of sight out of mind. Or even something that you know nobody will even know somebody did, but you do it because you want to - not even to feel better about yourself, but purely because you wanted to for God's glory.
- E. **We LOVE glory!** Come on! We do. I want glory for staying open today. I also want God to have glory, but my pride is wrapped up in it too. **I have mixed motives! I always do!**
- F. **At the same time, have you ever noticed some act of obedience or love or grace or mercy or compassion or empathy,** where after you realized: “Wow. I would have never done that before Jesus ambushed and transformed me by His love/power.”
- G. **Sure let them see your good works, so that they will glory God in heaven, but also don't let them see some so that you know your motives aren't your own glory. :-)**