

# Application in Community

**Note:** At Grace Church, we believe that for a person to become a disciple of Jesus, you need Christian Community. Sunday “church” feeds the body and leads the gathering to worship Jesus. But to grow you also need “church” in a small group<sup>1</sup> during the week for friendship, encouragement, and mutual building one another up in the Lord through prayer, a meal, and to talk about application of the Bible.

If you are not in a small group and are interested in joining one, please see Pastor Ryan or Tiea Hanson, our Director of Connections:

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**Questions:** Our application is tied into the parable of the week. Read the Salt and Light parable in its context – Matt. 4:17-5:16.

1. In light of recent events in DC, do you believe this was a good sampling of how Christians ought to be salt and light to transform culture?  
  
(In respect for those who might disagree, may our words be seasoned with salt, edifying, and scriptural in its reasoning).
2. According to the parable (Matt. 5:13-16), real disciples of Jesus are called to be moral preservatives in a decaying culture and our good deeds are meant to shine, be out front for the world to see, and pointing to God’s glory – **But what does this look like? What ought this to look like?** (Consider the context of Matt. 4:17, 4:19, 4:23-25; 5:1-12; and the broader context of scripture).
3. So, what changes must I make, according to these verses above, to be Salt and Light personally? What changes must we make as a small group to be Salt and Light as a community?

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<sup>1</sup> At Grace Church, Home Communities are small groups that focus on becoming a family of servant missionaries to their neighborhood. Our meetings emphasize focus on Scripture, fellowship, food, & prayer (Acts 2:42).

# The Parables of Jesus

**What is a Parable?**

**Today’s Parable: Salt and Light**

*Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

*<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

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***BI: Real disciples of Jesus are called to be Salt & Light, a living demonstration of the arrival of the Kingdom and thus an alternative to the city.***

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**What is a “real” disciple?** (see Matt. 4:19)

**Disciples of Jesus are called:**

1. To be Salt and Light.
2. To be a living demonstration of the arrival of the Kingdom.
3. To be an alternative to the city.