



Redefined!

Redefined: Salt and Light

Discussion Guide

Week 2

Icebreaker question: Have you ever been in total darkness? How did that feel and what difference did light coming into that space make? (Did anyone in your group witness the eclipse within the “area of totality”?)

Key Scripture: Matthew 5:9-15, Ephesians 6:12.

1. Read the above Matthew passage in its entirety out loud in your group. Words like *blessed, peacemakers, children of God, persecuted because of righteousness, salt, light* jump off the page at us. What images come to mind for you when you hear those words? Look at the “rewards” associated with them. How much do you personally desire those “rewards”?
2. In our message, we are challenged to consider the difference between peaceMAKING and peaceKEEPING. How do you define the difference? What does it matter to Jesus for us to be MAKERS of peace?
3. Read Ephesians 6:12. How does this passage impact your understanding of our human struggles and challenges? How have you seen the challenges in your own life? What “shiny objects” have you been tempted to strive for at the expense of your peace with God and within yourself?
4. Have you ever felt that following Jesus’ ways “*all sounds very nice, but this stuff about mercy and being humble and pure in heart, it doesn’t really work in this day and age*”? What has your experience been? Have the ways of Jesus “worked” in your life? What have been the outcomes when you follow the path of the Sermon on the Mount?
5. How do you respond to “you are the salt of the earth”? How can you add “flavor” and “preservation” in the world around *you*? And how do you feel about being the “light of the world”? Not being a lamp screaming “look at me” but being a lamp who simply brings light into the space. A quote from our message said, “What Jesus is describing is not *influencer* Christianity, trying to sell other people on Jesus. It’s *influential* Christianity. Living LIKE Jesus- making an impact on the people around us.” How do you respond to this statement?

Prayer Time: Heavenly Father, We long to live out your kingdom teaching in our life, yet we often lack the courage to do so. Holy Spirit, fill us with your great power and strength. May you alone be our desire in this world. May we impact others for your glory and for your joy! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.