

Dig Deeper @Home – “The Way of the Kingdom”

Complement to lesson on 9/8/24 – “Relax at Your Own Risk”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is your favorite salty snack? Favorite sweet snack? Favorite healthy snack?
2. What is the brightest light you have ever seen?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 6:9-10

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

READ –Matthew 5:13-20

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Jesus uses the phrase “kingdom of heaven” three times in these 8 verses, and it occurs over 30 times in the book of Matthew. When you hear the phrase, what comes to mind? (Clouds? Harps? Angel choirs?) Is this what Jesus meant? (Hint: Matthew 3:2, 4:17, 6:9-10, 19:14) Why or why not?
3. What do you think Jesus means by his followers being “salt” and “light?”
 - a. How might we lose our “saltiness?”
 - b. In what ways might we “put our lamp under a basket?”
 - c. “You are the light of the world.” (v14)
 - i. Isn’t Jesus the “light of the world?” (John 8:12)
 - ii. What is the source of our light?
 - iii. Who should receive the glory for our good works? Who often does?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Don't be salty!

"You are the salt of the earth..."

Today's experiential activity is a tasty one! Make a batch of french fries and then split them into two piles, only salting half. (If you're not much of a chef, drive to your local burger joint and order two servings, one salted and one plain.) Without anyone seeing who is receiving from each pile, give every participant a serving of either the salted or unsalted fries. Can you determine who received the salted? How discerning is your palate? Pass the plates in a circle and try again. What differences do you taste? What is the affect of salt on food? What does this teach us about how Christians should interact with the world around them as "salt" of the earth?

SING

As It Is in Heaven -> <https://youtu.be/qK3A8WpIC90?si=fvWUYuPYLRO2cmwj>

Build Your Kingdom Here -> https://youtu.be/r-4bEbk1m_c?si=BEs6gmDtVBNNfHOs

As It Is in Heaven #2 -> <https://youtu.be/plc1APNJumg?si=wK9oYYW1PedPIEDF>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us. In the Spirit of Matthew 6:10, pray also that God's "kingdom come, (his) will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Sending prayer based on the message:

Heavenly Father, help us to be the salt of the earth, preserving Your truth and bringing flavor to the world with our faith. May we shine as a light in the darkness, reflecting Your glory in our deeds, and living out Your commandments with integrity and love, so that others may see and be drawn closer to You. Amen.