

**YOU+ | Week 4 - Be Salt and Light****Message Big Idea**

Disciples of Jesus continually look for ways to reveal the presence of Jesus and the availability of his Kingdom to the watching world.

**Scripture**

Matthew 5:13-16, John 3:30

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. The YOU+ life is an invitation to step into the “life and life to the full” (John 10:10) Jesus came to bring. When Jesus walked among us, he taught and modeled this way of life. It’s what we call the YOU+ life, and we experience it by living as Jesus’ disciples. In week one, we introduced a simple definition of a “disciple” that is crucial to following Jesus: A disciple is a person who hears from God and does what he says.
2. The Kingdom of God is the sphere in which what God wants done is done. It’s the realm in which God’s will reigns. It is what reality looks like when God’s dream and intention for life are lived out. The Kingdom of God is often in conflict with the kingdoms of this world. And so, the disciples of Jesus release their attachments to the kingdoms of this world to choose Jesus’ way of life in the Kingdom of God.
3. Our role as salt and light is one of impact where we reveal the presence and availability of God’s Kingdom. We impact the world not by becoming something great but by making Jesus greatly known. Eugene Peterson translates these verses, “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth... Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.” When we are the salt and light of the world, we reveal the God-flavors and God-colors to those around us, to the whole world!
4. N.T. Wright mentions some simple ways we can be salt and light. Wright, in his commentary on Matthew. “What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God’s future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether... They are part of what we may call building for God’s kingdom.”

**Next Steps**

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
4. Have you read the Community Daily recently? How is it encouraging you and challenging you? You can sign up at [communitychristian.org/daily](http://communitychristian.org/daily)
5. If anyone in your small group is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/mentalhealth](http://communitychristian.org/mentalhealth)
6. Start your pre-work and sign up to have a YOU+ Conversation by visiting: [youplus.info](http://youplus.info)