

discussion guide for April 1st

"How to Change Your World"

Matthew 5:13-16 (p. 1252-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ GRIND IT (11:00 am)

Humanists believe that mankind is evolving to a higher and higher plane of existence characterized by selflessness, morality, and altruism. They don't attribute good to anything other than this evolution of the species. Imagine a world with no godly influence. What do you think would happen? Take all churches and Christians out of the world (imagine the rapture), and describe what you think might happen?

Read the following verses and summarize the Bible's teaching about the reality of human depravity.

- Genesis 6:5-6, (p. 11, DSB*)
- Isaiah 53:6, (p. 943, DSB*)
- Ecclesiastes 3:18-19, (p. 841, DSB*)
- Romans 3:23, (p. 1489, DSB*)

*"DSB" - The "Discovery Study Bibles" on common ground tables.

➤ BREW IT (11:10 am)

Jesus said the way to make a difference in your world is through the process of letting God change you. Pastor Tom gave us this formula: ***The world gets changed through changed lives.*** As God changes you, you become His agent of change in the world.

1. Pass the Salt! Read Mt. 5:13, (p. 1252, DSB*).
[Espresso: Jesus said, "You are salt." There's no option. The burden of changing your world is on your shoulders!]
 - What are the functions of salt? How does it affect what it touches?
 - Function implies need. Why does mankind need salt?
 - As God's "salt", what is your function? (Give examples)
 - How do you remain "salty", so that the work God has for you will be accomplished? Conversely, what makes you "tasteless" and ineffective?
(HINT: See Psalm 139:23-24 p. 785, DSB*)
2. Shine the Light! Read Mt. 5:14-16, (p. 1252, DSB*).
[Espresso: Jesus said, "You are light." Light can't be hidden unless steps are deliberately, actively taken to hide it.]
 - God chose *light* to illustrate His own being. In "light" of that, list some characteristics of light.
 - Describe a time when you were surrounded by complete darkness. What impact does even the smallest light have on utter darkness?
 - In John 8:12 (p. 1405, DSB*), Jesus said "I am the light of the world." What does this verse say Christ's followers have? How is it possible for you to be the light of the world?
 - Reviewing the beatitudes, how does a believer make sure they are shining with the light of life?

*"DSB" - The "Discovery Study Bibles" on common ground tables.

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Words to others about Jesus become stale if His life is not reflected in us. We may teach the significance of salt and light, but there’s no credibility unless we *are* salt and light. This happens, not by *doing*, but by *believing* we are who Jesus said: God’s children, friends and fellow workers of Christ, sent into this world to be salt and light by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is your choice: Will you live as if Christ makes no difference in your life, or will you believe what He says about you and trust He who lives in you will make you effective as salt and light in this world? Live so that He (not you) might be known and glorified by others! How is your salt and light effectiveness? Mark the scale honestly and then commit to let God flavor and illuminate your world through you!

Bland---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---**Salty**
Dim---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---**Bright**

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray that God will use you as salt and light this week at home, work, and in leisure activities.
- Pray for needs of people outside the group.
- Pray for needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving someone a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the “*Savor*” section this week in your personal daily devotionals to reinforce the commonground experience. Sign up for the “Daily Cup” e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)**

Last Sunday you examined the need to let God flavor and illuminate your world through you. These daily passages and comments will help reinforce that truth. Remember to shine your light and pass the salt! Monday, April 2: Read John 1:4-9, (p. 1391-DSB*).

What is the source of light? How did John show the light? How do you and I show the light? How can you show the light of Christ today?

Tuesday, April 3: Read Ephesians 5:8-13, (p. 1564-DSB*). What contrast is given in vs. 8? How are you to live? What difference do you make in the lives of others when you live as a "child of light?"

Wednesday, April 4: Read Revelation 2:1-5, (p. 1631-DSB*). For what good did God commend the Ephesians? What was missing? When "first love" fades, what else is lost? Ask God to give you His understanding of the love relationship He desires.

Thursday, April 5: Read Isaiah 49: 6, (p. 937-DSB*), and Acts 13: 47, (p. 1459-DSB*). What message did God speak through Isaiah, then Paul and Barnabas? Joined to Christ, what is the purpose of your life? How will you fulfill your purpose today?

Friday, April 6: Read John 17:15-18, (p. 1423-DSB*).

Why does Jesus say His followers are not of this world? What does Jesus want us to do while we remain in this world? Do you accept the fact that you have been sent into the world as salt and light?

**“DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” available in common ground.

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