

2023 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13,14)

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (1 Peter 2:9, KJV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9, NIV)

1. How might this idea of "peculiarity" injure our ability to reach others with the good news of Jesus? How might it help us in this endeavour?
2. Do you find the idea to be helpful that the point of our oddity or our special nature is not that we simply stand out as followers of Jesus, but that we stand out with beneficial effect in the world around us? Discuss.
3. Why is it significant that Christ uses the phrase "you are" in terms of our identity as salt and light, rather than the term "you will become"? What does this suggest about our nature as followers of Jesus?
4. What does it mean to "be salt" and "be light" to you personally? What does this look like in your life? How do you practically apply this passage in your life?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"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 ... A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16)

In sermon, we discussed the idea that the analogies of salt and light likely point to some specific functions the people of God ought to fulfill in the world. They include:

- Illuminating cultural dangers or items that might require attention
 - Bringing peace amidst the fear of darkness
 - Revealing important instruction on how to live well
 - Seasoning the world by bringing the flavour of Jesus Christ
 - Serving a preservative function, existing as a symbol of God's lasting covenant with humanity
 - Serving as fertilizer increasing the fruitfulness of the message of Jesus Christ through changed lives.
 - Serving an antiseptic function, working as agents of healing in a wounded world
 - Bringing a thirst for God to the world
1. Of these various functions, which do you find the most intriguing? Which poses the greatest challenge to you?
 2. Order these functions according to which you think the church is most effective at accomplishing in our world right now. Discuss your reasoning for the highest and lowest ranked functions.
 3. In sermon, it was suggested that we become unsalty salt or place a bowl over our lamp when we fail to live according to our calling, when we don't live up to our incredible nature as followers of Jesus. What do you think it means to "live according to our calling"? What might we do to ensure this is occurring?
 4. How can we ensure that our nature as salt and light results in glory being given to God, rather than to us personally or to the church more generally?