



COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY • WEEK 2

You Are Salt and Light

A guided conversation from the April 19, 2026 sermon by Pastor Kent Keller • Matthew 5:13-16

SUMMARY

Because Jesus is risen, His followers have never been passive observers of history — they have shaped it. In this message from **Matthew 5:13-16**, Pastor Kent Keller reminds us that Jesus does not ask His people to *become* salt and light. He tells us we already are.

From the earliest days of the Church, that settled identity has moved Christians to build hospitals, open schools, defend the vulnerable, end slavery, and carry hope into places where there was none. Pastor Kent traces that legacy across the centuries, showing how the resurrection did not only change individual hearts — it reshaped civilizations.

And he challenges us, as a faith family on mission in Miami, to live out today who God has already made us to be, right in the places He has placed us.

PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we gather this morning knowing that Jesus is risen, and that His resurrection is still at work — in us, in our church family, and in our city. Quiet our hearts before You. Soften our attention. Help us hear Your Word clearly, and give us the courage to respond in faith and obedience. Prepare us to receive what You want to say, and shape us to live what You have already made us to be. In Jesus' name, amen.

START

ICE BREAKER

What is one small moment of goodness you have noticed this week — something at work, in your neighborhood, or in your family — that made you thankful?

MATTHEW 5:13-16 • ESV

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

ROMANS 13:1-7 • ESV

Paul on the believer's posture toward government and authority — submission and good works as part of how Christians live in the world.

PSALM 67:1-4 • ESV

A prayer that God's blessing on His people would make His way known among all the nations.

01 PRESERVING GOODNESS

Pastor Kent emphasized that Christians are called to be **salt of the earth** — preserving what is good and flavoring our culture with the goodness of God. Where is God inviting you to preserve goodness this week — in your workplace, your neighborhood, or your home?

02 YOU ARE THE LIGHT

Jesus does not tell us to **become** the light of the world — He says we **are** the light of the world. How does starting from that identity, rather than striving for it, shift the way you approach your everyday relationships?

03 HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, HUMAN RIGHTS

The sermon traced how Christian faith has shaped hospitals, education, and human rights. Which of those legacies stands out to you most, and where might God be inviting you to carry that same impulse into your own life?

04 FRUIT VS. IDEOLOGY

Pastor Kent contrasted the fruit of Christian witness with the ideologies that rejected it. How does knowing the historical impact of the Gospel strengthen your confidence in the faith you hold?

05 CRITICIZED FOR WHAT HE DID

Jesus was often criticized more for what He **did** than for what He didn't do — healing on the Sabbath, eating with sinners. Where might God be inviting you to follow that same pattern — stepping into a good work that others might not understand?

06 PRIVATELY ENGAGING

Pastor Kent reminded us that our faith is meant to be **privately engaging but not culturally irrelevant**. Where in your corner of culture or community do you sense God asking for more of your presence, not less?

07 SURPRISED BY THE IMPACT

How has your understanding of the Gospel's impact on civilization shifted after this message? What surprised you most?

08 CHRIST'S CONTINUING WORK

Pastor Kent closed with Napoleon's reflection on the enduring influence of Jesus. Where do you see evidence of Christ's continuing work — in your life, in your family, or in our church community?

APPLY LIFE APPLICATION

This week, identify one concrete way you can live as salt and light right where you already are.

- 1 Pick a place.** Workplace, neighborhood, family table, group chat — somewhere specific.
- 2 Pick an action.** Something that preserves what is good, OR brings light into a dark situation.
- 3 Take it.** This week. Not next week. Don't wait for a perfect moment.
- 4 Bring it back.** Come ready to share what happened the next time the group meets.

We grow as a faith family when we live on mission together — not when we strategize on mission privately.

REMEMBER KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Our calling as salt and light begins with identity, not effort — Jesus says we already are.
- ▶ Salt preserves what is good; light makes visible what is true. Both belong to the life of every follower of Christ.
- ▶ The Gospel has shaped history in measurable, traceable ways — hospitals, schools, human rights, and the dignity of the vulnerable.
- ▶ Without the resurrection, there is no cross-centered civilization; because Jesus is risen, His people continue to reshape the world.
- ▶ Faith is meant to be both deeply personal and publicly fruitful — lived quietly with God, and visibly on mission with others.

He didn't say try. He said you are.

PRAYER CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You that because of Your resurrection, You are still at work in the world — through ordinary people like us, in ordinary places like Miami. Thank You for every freedom, every institution, every act of mercy that has come from Your people carrying Your light. Give us courage to be salt and light in our generation. Help us preserve what is good, bring light into dark places, and live the life You have called us to live together. Shape us as a faith family on mission, committed to loving God, loving people, and making You known. In Your precious name we pray, amen.

CHRISTCHURCH MIAMI

A Faith Family on Mission

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