

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR LIFE GROUPS

Week 1 - F.A.Q. - The Kingdom Lens to Cultural Issues

Welcome to our series, F.A.Q. This series is designed to help us learn how to navigate the truth of God's Word, and the complexity of cultural issues by looking at Jesus' description of the Kingdom of God. Cultural trends of sexuality, immigration, marriage and politics should be addressed not only through the Word of God, but through a Kingdom of God lens. Throughout the generations we have wrestled with how to apply the truth of God's Word to an ever changing cultural landscape. We have tried to escape culture, come against culture, and even force change through Christian politics. But is there a different way?

This week we are going to explore the teachings of Jesus that will establish the filters in which we should address complex cultural issues we face, by looking at 4 illustrations used by Jesus. The illustrations Jesus used will help us understand how to live in the world today by applying the Kingdom principles of salt, light, leaven, and a seed.

Salt: Speak Life

Have someone in your group read *Matthew 5:13* aloud. **Salt** creates an environment where our words can bring out the best in people. If we are to be salt in our homes and our workplace, how can our words bring life to people? Have a few people share how they will use their words this week to speak life into people's lives.

Light: Display Truth

Have someone in your group read *Matthew 5:14* aloud. **Light** is there to make visible the characteristics of our Heavenly Father, and to allow His light to shine through us. How can you display God's light and His characteristics through your life?

Leaven: Change the Atmosphere

Have someone in your group read *Matthew 13:33*. **Leaven** has the ability to rapidly multiply itself to change the very nature of its environment. Have you ever noticed how someone's attitude can influence an entire room? Share a story about this, whether it's positive or negative. How can you transform your home, school, or workplace, by being a faithful and positive presence?

Seed: Be a Refuge

Have someone in your group read *Matthew 13:31-32* aloud. A small mustard **seed** of faith can grow your life to be a refuge for others. In what way can your life be a refuge for others? Have you considered yourself as a place of refuge? What can you do this week to be a refuge for someone?

Over the next few weeks we are going to look at cultural issues and apply the salt, light, leaven, and seed principles to determine how followers of Jesus should navigate these cultural shifts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Field Trip Sunday**
- The Laconia Location will not be having services on Sunday, February 19, so we're encouraging our Laconia Location to take a field trip! Visit our Pembroke or Pittsfield Location on Sunday, February 19 to see what our other locations are up to.
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- **Baptism**
- If anyone in your LifeGroup is interested in being baptized, have them visit gccnh.com/baptism to sign up. Pembroke and Pittsfield will be having baptisms on Sunday, February 19. The Laconia Location is encouraged to visit one of those locations that Sunday for baptisms.
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- **The Art of Marriage: Marriage Conference**
- Your marriage and the marriages around you are colored by personalities, passions, and experiences. Making marriage work is a divinely inspired art form.
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- For more than four decades, FamilyLife® has been helping couples understand God's plan for relationships. In The Art of Marriage®, we weave together expert teaching, engaging stories, man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes, and more to portray both the challenges and the beauty of God's design.
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- Date: March 24-25
- Location: Pembroke
- More details at: gccnh.com/events

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- Questions or need some help? Contact your Location LifeGroup Coordinator.
 - Carla Fowler | Pembroke | caf3225@comcast.net
 - Rachel Ludwick | Laconia | Rachel@gccnh.com
 - Bob Megan | Pittsfield | bobmagan@metrocast.net
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 - Please reach out to your supporting Elder if you need spiritual guidance or prayer coverage.