

ORGANIC DISCIPLES

WEEK 8, "ORGANIC OUTREACH"

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MESSAGE DESCRIPTION

The first one to reach out is always God. He so loved the world that he gave his only Son. When Jesus walked on this earth, he extended grace to every person he met. We who follow Jesus are to love people as he does. Every disciple carries the best news in human history. Our calling is to share the love and gospel of Jesus freely, in the power of the Spirit. As we partner with the Savior, he draws people to himself, and he alone receives the glory.

IMAGE

1. Open up with a story of a time God personally used you to organically reach out to another person.
2. Personal story of losing my brother at an amusement park as kids, and my mom rejoicing hours as he was found.

NEED

1. We were left with an incredible task at the end of Matthew: "GO and make disciples". The issue is many of us come to know Jesus as Savior, we grow in our faith, but we forget to engage in outreach. It's scary, and you might be rejected, so you decide to not get in the game. God has BIG plans to use you to be a light to the world.

SUBJECT

1. Tonight we are diving into Matthew 5:13-16, and Jesus gives us two metaphors of who we are. SALT & LIGHT.

PREVIEW

1. As we dive into what Jesus says tonight, my prayer is that you are challenged to walk out of here and live differently. It can be easy to hide our light from others, simply because we fear what a conversation about Jesus might be like with them. As you

begin to pray about organically reaching others for the Gospel, let the fear fade away, and allow your heart to break for those that don't know Jesus as Savior.

TEXT ADDRESS

1. Tonight we are going to be in Matthew 5 as Jesus sits on the mountainside to address the crowds. As I read, I picture Jesus sitting right before me, instructing me on how to live my life as salt and light to a lost and broken world.

SET UP

1. Just one chapter earlier, Jesus is tempted by Satan and he beats him with Scripture. Jesus' ministry is about to begin. He starts to preach, and he calls His first disciples, who were just ordinary people like you and me. Matthew 5 opens up with Jesus sitting down to teach focusing on one word "blessed". And now, Jesus is going to deliver a powerful message on our purpose. As Christ-followers, we were never meant to hide the powerful, life-changing message of the cross and Jesus. We are called to SALT & LIGHT.

TEXT

1. READ Matthew 5:13-16

MAIN POINTS

1. SALT (13)

a. Importance of salt

- i. Preserves
- ii. Brings flavor

b. Your favorite things to put salt on and why

- i. Fries
- ii. Steak
- iii. Without salt, food is bland
 1. Things that taste horrible without salt
 - a. Potato chips
 - b. Chocolate chip cookies

c. "YOU," are the salt of the earth (vs 13)

- i. Urgency
 1. Lost and broken people
 2. Where is God calling you to be "salt"?
 - a. School
 - b. Sports

- c. Youth Group
- d. Band

2. LIGHT (14-16)

a. *Importance of light*

- i. See the beauty of the world around us
 - 1. Speak on the most beautiful sight you have seen
- ii. Warms the earth and helps things grow
 - 1. Plants, trees, etc. (Bring this to life)
- iii. Radiates dark places
 - 1. Tell a story of the darkest place you have been. How did light help the situation?
- iv. God is calling us to BE LIGHT (vs 16)
 - 1. Don't stay hidden
 - 2. Changed lives
 - 3. Matthew 28

SUMMARY

- 1. In Matthew 5, just before the Scripture, I taught on tonight, Jesus said something profound in verses 11 & 12. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven, for, in the same way, they persecuted the prophets who were before you. God is calling each and every one of you in here tonight to live with boldness. We aren't to stay hidden and blend in, but we are to be salt and light to a world that desperately needs Jesus.

LANDING

- 1. Sharing our faith and being salt and light was never meant to be difficult. So often we focus on rejection and what it might cost you to share your faith. As begin to understand what it means to share your faith organically, this will become natural to you. Many of you in here have the natural gift of compassion and service. Conversations will organically arise as you show compassion and humbly serve others. For others, your kindness will be a light to many, and others might even question why you are so kind to everyone. Let that moment be a time where you organically share where your kindness comes from. Let your light shine before men. Let's see a world that wonders come to know Jesus because we choose to not stay hidden.

ACTION

Challenge students to reach out to one person this week. God has students strategically where they are at. Follow-up next week in small groups about the 1 (or more) people they had an organic conversation with focused on outreach.