

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

TWELVE TO CHANGE THE WORLD: A FAITHFUL PRESENCE

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

This discussion focus on how we live a faithful (everyday) life, being a godly presence among those in our spheres of influence.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

Who has been the most faithful presence in your life over the years? Has this been a good influence on your faith life?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this*

I Peter 2:11-17

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. 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. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Look at all the things we are called to in these passages – which challenge the current culture around you?

Potential answers: abstain vs. indulge in selfish desires, submit vs. "be me", live among the pagans and not simply remain in my safe Christian bubble, shine my light instead of keeping my faith just a personal thing.

Are there specific sinful desires we can come alongside you to combat this week?

Answers will vary. Consider revisiting this questions more in accountability time.

What are some practical ways we can bring salt & light to our world in this season?

Potential answers: partner with an organization we love, reach out to a neighbor, pray, converse without complaining, etc.

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Story of the Good News of Jesus.

Creation

God makes all things and they are good

Fall

God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.

Redemption

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.

Restoration

Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

How can we use Jesus as an example of how he lived “among the pagans”?

Potential answers: meet together with unbelievers, share meals together, care for the outcast, do life with others while staying true to our mission.

How is God asking you to live as a foreigner in this world? Is the gospel your motivation?

Answers will vary.

How does this conversation influence our small group to change the world?

Answers will vary. Consider volunteering, supporting, discussing or learning about something new together.

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

Consider what God is telling you stop, start, change, or continue.

What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?

Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?