



GATEWAY
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“The Power of Community”
Acts 5:42; Matthew 5:13-16
Randy Watson 5/21/17

Growing together to Go together

Acts 5:42 Representing Christ is not a part time job.

Coming together is extremely important. **Hebrews 10:23-25**

A tool to help us Grow together: Lifegroups

The more we personally *understand* the word and *apply* it to our lives, the more we’re going to be *transformed*. A benefit of participation in groups to study, pray and help you to apply it is:

accountability!

⇒ Ben Ellis Testimony

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus compares us – His followers, people who live by The Way – Christians – to two things: **Salt** and **Light**.

Salt is good

Are you living ‘*the way*’ Jesus is telling us how we need to live?

Jesus also said we are **Light**.

Light *illuminates*. Light *dispels* darkness. Light is *good*.

Light points the way.

Think of the Lighthouses that have saved many a life by pointing the right way to go and where to avoid. The light *pointing the way* for sailors was a great source of **hope** for them.

We are supposed to live our life in a way that people NOTICE. That there is *a difference* to us. That people can see the **Hope** of Christ in us. The **beauty** of Christ IN us...

We are called to ‘*shine our lights*’. Matthew 5:15-16

We shine our light by doing acts of kindness.

✓ **Phil: Action Groups** - ✓ *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* Colossians 3:17

BE a Witness ⇒ **Action Groups:** Represent Jesus

⇒ I commit to impact my Community as a Christian in Action.

Next Week: *Remembering those who Purchased and Protect our Freedom* - John 15:13

Power of Community- Growing Together to Go Together

May's Memory Verse: *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*” John 13:35

Monday 5/22- Read Matthew 5:1-12

Question: Who will be called children of God?

Truth: Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God. Vs. 9

Meditate: Matthew 5:8- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Prayer: Father, use me to be a peacemaker and help others come to know your love, hope and mercy.

Action: Be a peacemaker.

What is God asking ME to do: _____

Tuesday 5/23- Read Matthew 5:13-16

Question: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? Vs. 13

Truth: It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. Vs. 14

Meditate: Matthew 5:15- “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Prayer: Lord, Today may I bring others to glorify your Name.

Action: In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Who will I love as myself today: _____

Wednesday 5/24- Read Matthew 5:43-48

Question: If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? Vs. 46

Challenge: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Meditate: Matthew 5:47- And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Prayer: Lord, help me to love even my enemies and show them love and kindness for your Name sake.

Action: Love my neighbor even if they are my enemy.

What God is telling me _____

Thursday 5/25- Read Romans 12:9-21

Challenge: *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* Vs. 18

Truth: *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.* Vs. 5 & 6

Meditate: Romans 12:20- *“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”*

Prayer: Father God, I will try to live in peace with everyone.

Action: *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

What God is telling me _____

Friday 5/26- Read Proverbs 16:1-33

Set my Heart on God and He will speak through me:

To humans belong the plans of the heart,

but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue. Vs. 1

Truth: *Better a patient person than a warrior,*

one with self-control than one who takes a city. Vs.32

Meditate: Proverbs 16:7- *When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them.*

Prayer: *How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!* Vs. 16

Action: *Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.* Vs. 3

Who will I bring to Jesus _____

Growing Together to Go Together: Matthew 5:13-16

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Fellowship and Praises-

Take 20-30 minutes and share what God has been doing in your life this last week.

Bible verse memorization: Has memorizing this verse changed your thinking or actions so far this month?

Bible Study Exercise: Read Matthew 5:13-16

Salt can help preserve meat and it also adds flavor to food. How are you adding flavor to others by making their lives more enjoyable?

What kinds of activities or hobbies bring you pleasure and relaxation?

How can you be a witness for Christ while you are doing these activities?

When was the last time someone asked you about your joy or hope and why did they ask you?

Discuss how being a disciple for Christ is being a light into this world.

Who can you shed the light of Christ onto?

Pray for these people by name that God would give you an opportunity to BE a witness for Christ.

Prayer Time-

Going Deeper: Read John 1:1-51

He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. Vs. 7

Real Application: Commit to Be a witness for Christ daily.