

BBCC Bible Study Notes
From the series: The Teacher Who Changed the World
"Building Bridges of Influence"
April 23, 2017

THE BIG IDEA: In order to make a difference in the world, believers must build bridges of influence that connect the church and the culture. Jesus said that we do this by being the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world."

MATTHEW 5:13-16

1. In order to be the "salt of the earth" you must be _____.

- Just as salt preserves food, our purpose is to "preserve" our world from _____ by what we say and do.
- Just as salt can become contaminated and lose its saltiness, Christians can lose their effectiveness when they are "contaminated" by the _____ and _____ of the world.

2. In order to be the "light of the world" you must be _____.

- Just as light penetrates the darkness and enables people to see, our purpose is to penetrate the darkness of our world through _____ to enable people to see the greatness of God.
- Seeing the greatness of God leads people to _____ God.

"We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves." 2 Corinthians 4:7 NLT

- Have you made the decision to "come into the light"?
- If you are a follower of Christ, which of these do you need to focus on more: being *authentic* or being *available*?
- To whom can you build a bridge of influence?

Name _____

Need _____

Prayer goal _____

BBCC Verse of the Week: *"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:16 NLT*

BBC Devotional Guide for April 23 to 29, 2017

In order to make a difference in the world believers must build bridges of influence that connect the church and the culture. Jesus said that we do this by being the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.”

Sunday: Read Matthew 5:13-16. In today’s message we saw that in order to be the “salt of the earth” you must be authentic and to be the “light of the world” you must be available. If you are a believer, which of these do you need to focus on more: being authentic or being available?

Monday: Read Colossians 4:6. In the NIV translation this verse says that our conversation should be “seasoned with salt”. What do you think this means? What kind of influence do your words have on those closest to you? What kind of influence do your words have on strangers? Read Ephesians 4:29-30 and ask God to help you use your words in this way.

Tuesday: Read Mark 9:50. It may seem rather strange to think about salt not being “salty”. However, in the Bible salt was often distilled from sea water and so it was never completely pure. Sometimes when people tried to use it to preserve food it was so contaminated that it didn’t work and in that case it was thrown out. How can being “salty” influence your relationships with other believers?

Wednesday: Read Colossians 1:13-14. These verses say that God rescued people from the power or “dominion” of darkness and brought them into the “Kingdom of the Son he loves.” If you are a Christian, how did God rescue you from the power of “darkness”? What difference should it make for you to know that you are dearly loved, completely forgiven and totally accepted by God?

Thursday: Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-7. How does the Apostle Paul describe the ministry God has entrusted to him and his ministry partners? Who does he say has blinded the minds of unbelievers? What is the solution for this “blindness”? Thank God today that He has made his power available to you to live in the light. Where do you need to experience His power today?

Friday: Read Psalm 119:97-105. These verses remind us that God’s word gives us the guidance we need as we navigate through a world that is filled with darkness. The psalmist says that he loves the law and the reason is that he loves the One who gives the law. If you are a parent, why do you have rules for your children to obey? Why does God give us commands to obey? Thank God today for giving you His word to guide and protect you.

Saturday: Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What comes to mind when you read the word “ambassador”? Please use the end of your message outline to record the name of someone to whom you want to build a bridge of influence as an ambassador for Christ. What need does this person have that you could help meet? How can you begin praying for them?

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- Seeing the greatness of God leads people to glorify God.

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