

Leader Guide

Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 3

Message Date 9/28/2025

THE GOAL

Welcome to week three of The Simple Gospel! This week Jesus teaches us that being “salt of the earth” and “light of the world” is really about living on mission. God has invited us into a relationship with Him through Jesus — that’s friendship. But He also calls us into partnership with Him — to represent Him on earth and draw others to His heart. The simple Gospel must be lived out and given away. If we don’t, we are missing it. Remind your group that God blesses us with His presence and favor, but that blessing isn’t meant to stop with us. It flows through us to others. We are on mission with Him.

MY STORY

- 1) When has living out your faith made you feel “different” from the world around you?
- 2) If you had to replace your car horn with any sound effect (cartoon noise, animal sound, song clip, etc.), what would it be?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:10–12 (NLT) – *“God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”*

- 4) Why does Jesus say we are blessed when we are persecuted for doing right? Because it means our lives look enough like Jesus that the world notices. It reassures me that even in rejection, God is near and sees me as faithful.

- 5) What does the example of the prophets teach us about friendship with God and partnership with Him in His mission?

They weren't celebrated in their time, but they burned bright anyway. That shows us that friendship with God means standing with Him, and partnership means speaking and living His truth even when it's unpopular.

Matthew 5:13 (NLT) – *"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."*

- 6) What does it mean to be the "salt of the earth"?

Salt preserves and brings out flavor. It seasons and preserves. Salt was a big deal in the first century, bigger than it is now. It was used to pay for things, how they preserve meat and how they were able to eat and store food long-term. We are that very thing in this world; that's what it means to live on-mission with him.

- 7) How does the idea of "losing saltiness" challenge you personally?

It makes me ask whether I'm just blending in or actually living differently. I know I need to keep close to Jesus so I don't lose that sharpness and distinctiveness. I can drift back into old habits and patterns of sin. I no longer look like him. I end up looking like the world. Salt is distinct from the world; it's different.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT) – *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."*

- 8) How do you see your life as an invitation for others to know Him?

When we live in close proximity to Jesus, and our relationship looks like Him. We also talk about Him. I had a friend who said to me recently that she didn't think she was doing a good job sharing her faith with her family. She's been walking in Jesus for many years. Her brother had a crisis of faith recently, and she was the first person he called. He immediately reached out to her to ask questions about Jesus and faith. That's what it means to live out our faith in front of others.

- 9) Living on mission means God wants to work through us. What's one area of your life right now where you sense He is calling you to partner with Him?

For me (Justin) I'm called here at Heights Church to help train and equip His people to live out their lives with others. That doesn't let me off the hook. I have people in my own life that I need to live it out with. Friends at my gym, my family, people I run into the grocery store and all kinds of others. But it is the mission and it is the joy that is used to be able to live out God's mission at His side.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Where am I leaning more toward friendship with God but resisting partnership with Him?
- 2) Who in my life needs to experience the “salt” and “light” of Jesus through me this week?
- 3) Pray: “Lord, thank You for inviting me into both friendship and partnership with You. Show me today how to live on mission.”