

Leader Guide Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 4

Message Date 10/5/2025

THE GOAL

I hope your Life Group quarter is going well and that you are being blessed by this study. Thank you for your faithful leadership and the way you shepherd your group each week—it truly matters. Last week we explored what it means to live on mission as the “salt of the earth.” We saw that God invites us into friendship and partnership with Him, and from that closeness, He uses our lives to draw out His goodness in others. This week, we continue that theme by looking at how Jesus calls us to be both salt and light—living as a contrast in the world so others can see His love more clearly. The goal this week is to see how God’s love not only rescues us but also transforms us so we can live as salt and light in the world.

MY STORY

- 1) Who in your life first showed you what it looked like to genuinely follow Jesus, and how did that influence you?
- 2) If you could glow in the dark, what practical (or hilarious) way would you use that ability?

QUICK REVIEW

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

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

John 8:12 (NLT)

“Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.’”

- 4) In what ways does following Jesus change the way we see and walk through the world?

For me, following Jesus isn't about rules, it's about relationship. The closer I stay to Him, the more clearly I see, even when things are not clear. Through my Chair Time I learn how to live alongside of Him, and it helps me navigate situations that I otherwise wouldn't know how to do.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NLT)

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ‘Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.’”

5) What do these verses say about our identity and our purpose, and how are these connected to the Beatitudes?

My identity comes from belonging to Him. I am His. And I'm invited to partnership in the work He wants done in this world. He's inviting me to help Him. These are connected to the Beatitudes because we are modeling and living out mercy as we have received mercy.

Colossians 4:5–6 (NLT)

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”

6) How does “seasoning our words with salt” look in conversations today?

When I'm walking close with Jesus, my words naturally become more gracious. I don't have to force it. Over time in His presence, my tone softens, and I can respond in a way that points people toward Him. Don't get me wrong I can be a grumpy guy. And life happens. Sometimes I'm sad or tired but I can still season this world with salt because my hope is in Jesus not in my circumstances.

Philippians 2:14–16 (NLT)

“Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life...”

7) Paul says we “shine like bright lights.” What does that look like in everyday life?

I shine brightest when I stay close to Him. Joy and peace aren't something I manufacture—they flow out of my relationship with Jesus. The more I trust Him, the more my life reflects His light in a dark world. I think one of the ways to shine is to do it without complaining. Even as I write this, I'm convicted by it. It's easy to get accustomed to the negative mindset of complaining -- at least for me.

2 Corinthians 4:6–7 (NLT)

“For God, who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We

now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure...

8) Why do you think God chose to put His light into fragile “jars of clay” like us? Because it’s about the treasure not the jar. My weakness keeps me dependent on Him. It reminds me that the light isn’t mine—it’s His. When people see anything good in me, It’s because of His Spirit not because of me.

Romans 12:1–2 (NLT)

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you... Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think...”

9) What daily choices help us avoid “conforming” and instead live transformed? My effort goes into staying close—Chair Time, prayer, reading my Bible. When I keep in step with the Spirit, He does the transforming. My desires shift, and obedience flows from that closeness. One of the key takeaways from this verse is transforming the way I think. Many of us are our thoughts; we live them out, we act on them. If my thoughts are God’s thoughts I will look more like Him. I will see things more like Him. I will respond to things more like Him again it’s the partnership with Him.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NLT)

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God... For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

10) How does being “created for good works” connect to being salt and light? The closer I stay to Jesus, the more He changes my heart. Out of that transformation, good works naturally happen. They aren’t forced—they’re a response to His grace, prepared by Him. He is inviting us to join him. We are God’s plan for the world.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

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

- 1) Where do I see God’s light exposing something in me that needs to change?
- 2) Who in my life right now needs to experience the flavor of God’s love through my words?
- 3) What’s one step I can take this week to shine like a bright light in my family, workplace, or friendships?