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Head: Understanding the Bible

"The followers of Jesus Christ are sent on a mission to stimulate growth in the parts of the world that are barren, to be mixed into the manure piles of the world, so that God can use that fertilizer to bring new, virtuous life " ~Anthony Bradley

- 1) Read Matthew 5:10-12. What do you think of this beatitude and command to rejoice?
- 2) Read Matthew 5:13-16. Compare the two reactions to Christians described by Jesus in vs. 10-12 and here. What should we expect?
- 3) What are we as salt and light supposed to do? The sermon mentioned that one of the uses of salt mentioned by Jesus elsewhere (Luke 14:34) was to make better fertilizer. What is that saying about the relationship between the church and the world?
- 4) What is shocking about being called salt and light? What makes us salt and light? How do you lose your saltiness?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“See spotless innocence appear In guilt’s detested place!” ~Anne Steele, “O Love Incomprehensible”

- 5) How is Jesus the salt of the earth as fertilizer? How was he treated?
- 6) How does Jesus fulfill the beatitude on persecution? Why can we rejoice?

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

“The thorn is one of the most cursed, and angry, and crabbed weeds that the earth yields, and yet from it springs the rose, one of the sweetest smelling flowers, and most delightful to the eye, that the earth has. Your Lord shall make joy and gladness out of your afflictions.”

~Samuel Rutherford, *Letter XX*

- 7) In the face of difficult relationships and the possibility of rejection for Christ’s sake are you more likely to avoid the world or blend in?
- 8) In every day life, what does it look like to be salt? What places & people in our community need Hope Church to be salt?
- 9) How can Hope Church be a city on a hill?
- 10) Use the beatitudes to pray prayers of repentance and faith together. Pray for the wisdom as we live our lives as salt and light in the various relationships we have outside of the church.