

TALK IT OVER

Your Sphere of Influence

BOTTOM LINE

You are responsible to represent Jesus clearly in your sphere of influence.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Do you prefer salty or sweet? What is your favorite snack of that type?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Salt of the Earth](#) - 2-min. devotional

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Matthew 5:13 MSG

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized – whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ – but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it! 1 Corinthians 9:21-23 MSG

"Jesus didn't claim to have the best explanation of God. He claimed to be the best explanation of God." – Dwight Mason

"People do what people see. You cannot give another what you do not possess yourself." – Dwight Mason

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Jesus introduced the unheard-of idea that God loves everyone equally and compassion must be extended to all. They did not believe that compassion was always necessary. Where do you see evidence of that opinion today? How do you see Jesus giving dignity to everyone? *While we may be criticized for what we believe, we should be known for our compassion and generosity.* What would that look like for the church? Individually? That is how Jesus and the New Testament Church changed their culture. We can start in our sphere of influence to 1) be the change we want to see 2) value people by connecting 3) add value by influence 4) attract by living good values 5) transform by sharing good values 6) give hope by telling our story. Think of a person in your sphere who needs to know Jesus. At what stage are you with them? What can you do now to help them experience God's love through you? What is the importance of "gentleness and respect" in 1 Peter 3:15 as we tell our stories? Paul said the most important thing we do is share our personal story of God's grace. How can you prioritize sharing yours?

ACTION STEP

I will pray for my sphere of influence and ask God to help me be the change I want to see. I will pray regularly for my influence for Jesus on these people: _____