

The Church Unleashed
Irresistible Influence
Genesis12:1-3, Matthew 5:13-16

OPEN WITH PRAYER

GETTING STARTED: How do you think Bidwell Pres is viewed in this community? What word or words would someone outside this congregation use to describe BPC?

LEARNING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Read Genesis12:1-3 and Matthew 5:13-16 together

1. What one thing "struck you" from Steve's sermon? What was one new thing that you learned?

2. What does the image of light suggest to you? The image of salt? What do these images say about the church, specifically the church's relationship to the world around us?

3. According to Jesus, what happens if salt loses its saltiness? How does this truth relate to the church? Why are some possible reasons for the church's tendency to lose its saltiness?

4. What would the world be like without light? How and why do Christians (and the church) "hide" their light?

5. Is there anything that makes you uneasy or anxious about Jesus saying that you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world?

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

1. In what ways would our community be different if all of a sudden Bidwell Pres no longer existed? In what ways are we salt and light in Chico and the surrounding area? Is Bidwell “worth its salt?”
2. How can you more effectively be salt and light where God has placed you? Job? Neighborhood? Family? School? Volunteer organization?
3. Are there any ways that your RLG can be salt and light?
4. Are there any ways that our church can more effectively be salt and light?

SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God's grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another's needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.