

make a difference

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 1

In this week's message, Pastor Curt kicked off a new series called "**Make A Difference.**" We are called to change the world around us with the love of Jesus, and He equips us to do so when we experience His transforming power. The way that we live our life as a Jesus follower outside of walls of our church matters. Our influence as a Jesus follower is to go beyond the 1-2 hours each week inside the walls of our church. If we're going to make an impact, there must first be a collision of thoughts, actions, attitudes, decisions, beliefs, etc. about our concept of "church" and how God wants us to make a difference outside the walls of our church. God wants you to make a difference everywhere you go.

The BIG QUESTION is: What level of influence is the church supposed to have on culture? What is our response as followers of Jesus Christ to the changes in our culture? Some churches isolate from the culture, or assimilate into the culture, or denounce the culture, or do nothing. Here is what God says: (Jeremiah 15:19) "You are to influence them; do not let them influence you!" (NLT) Pastor Curt asked three important questions: **1) Why does it matter that we influence the culture? 2) Where do I start? 3) How do I influence the culture?**

Jesus says we are here to be salt and light in the world, demonstrating His goodness and love in a way that changes lives. To be that salt and light, we need to see and value people like He does. Let's be agents of change by reaching and valuing every individual we meet. This is Jesus' plan for our lives, and we can make a difference!

Discussion Questions

- How have previous relationships impacted the way you approach new relationships? What steps can you take to pursue healthy relationships, regardless of what you've experienced in the past?
- What are some examples of ways you have been encouraged through godly relationships? How can we intentionally encourage one another "today?"
- How

Prayer Focus

Jesus, thank You for valuing every person You have created. Help us to see people like You do and to value all people. Empower us to be salt and light and truly make a difference in the Kingdom of God. As we work to help change our world, change us as well. In Your Name, Amen.

Next Steps

- Value people by connecting with them.
- Add value to people by serving them. As we do this, we will gain influence in their lives and be able to more effectively share Jesus with them.
- Live good values, attracting others to the heart of God.
- Share good values so that others can experience the transforming power of life in Christ.

Leader Tip

There's no better way to add value to people's lives than by serving them. If your group doesn't have a Serve project planned, Check with your Campus about serving opportunities in your community and participate in it together!