Ice Breaker Question:

Do you crave salty or sweet foods more? What is your favorite crave?

Read and discuss this week's scripture [Matthew 5:13-20].

1. On Sunday in worship at ZPC, those in attendance filled out a survey on missions. In light of that survey and these words from Jesus, are you engaged in a ministry outside of ZPC? In that ministry, how are you salt and light? If not, what is a “salty” passion of yours that might draw you in to ministry?

2. You are the salt of the earth. Don’t lose your saltiness. What does a Christian, who is salty, look like? What does a Christian, who is bland, look like? How can you maintain your saltiness?

3. The “you” in “you are the salt of the earth” and “you are the light of the world” actually means “you all.” Knowing that Christ’s teaching is for a group of Christian disciples, what does a community of Christians look like that is being salt and light?

4. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine. Do you find your light comes from your inner self or from God? How can you be light and reflect Jesus, who is the light and the life of the world (John 1:4, 9)?

5. Jesus says he came to fulfill the law, not to abolish it. Reflecting on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12, and being salt and light, how does Jesus interpret and fulfill the law in his ministry? Read Luke 6:6-11 for an example of Jesus interacting with the law. How does Jesus interpreting the law in a new way in that story help us to understand the role of the law?

6. What does it mean to do your works in a public way so that others will see them for God’s glory [Matthew 5:16]? How do we do that?

7. The Pharisees and teachers of the law could be very legalistic. As Jesus’ followers, how can our righteousness surpass the Pharisees (5:20)? What does this type of righteousness look like?

Prayer:

Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close:
> Prayers of healing for Bob Bankert, Harry Milli, Carolyn Maddox, Don Armstrong, Karen Cunningham, Regina Franks, Hadley Lehr, and Bryan Dysert.