

# CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY

### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT



#### OVERVIEW:

Date: September 23, 2018  
Theme: "The Church Seasoning the World"  
Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16  
Colors: Blue, White and Gold.

#### MARKETING:

All collateral Flyers and Banners will consist of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr, President Benjamin Stephens III, Chairlady Joyce L. Rogers and WYD Chairperson, Elder Will D. Hatcher.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA:

The International Youth Department's Social Media channels will be the main source of reaching and connecting our youth and young adults for this day. The local Youth Departments will also play a role in getting the word out via their Social Media Networks. A save the date and month of September countdown campaign would occur to peek interest, generate buzz and build excitement!" **Social Media countdown building anticipation will happen during the week of Sept. 10th**". The hashtag this year will be #COGICWYD18. To track the social engagement and trend, it will be imperative to stress the social media hashtags. Social Media video promos will act as advertisements to capture the impact of World Youth Day 2018.

**World Youth Day 2018 Videos Clips: We're asking all local, District and Jurisdictional Youth Departments to send video clips and photos of their WYD2018 experience, to the International Youth Department for Social Media email address at [iyd@cogic.org](mailto:iyd@cogic.org) following the day of the event.**

#### ADDITIONAL WYD2018 IMPACT:

**(Suggestion)** World Youth Day T-shirts can be a fundraising opportunity for Jurisdictional, District and local churches. Each entity can select a different color t-shirt to wear. Flags from different countries can be used to celebrate the different parts of the world. A "WYD2018" Backdrop can be used for photo/pictures of your experience.

#### SAMPLE ORDER OF WORSHIP:

Call To Worship:	Announcements
Praise & Worship	Choir Selection
Scripture Reading	The Word of God
The Purpose of	Invocation to
COGIC WYD	Discipleship
Choir Selection	Benediction
Moment of Giving	

#### SAMPLE SERMON OUTLINE:

##### The Church Seasoning the World

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

##### Sample Outline:

###### Introduction

Would you say you are an influential person? Though Christ spends most of the Sermon on the Mount describing the character of a kingdom citizen, in Matthew 5:13-16 Christ gives us purpose and identity. Through two illustrations that describe our identity, Christ teaches that true kingdom citizens wield enormous influence. He says, "You are the salt of the earth" and, "You are the light of the world." These identity statements reveal to us how Christ plans to save a dark and decaying world. Christ gives us the power to influence. But, as we will see through these illustrations, many disciples have no influence and become valueless. How can we be salt and light? Notice verses 13-16.

###### 1: You Are Salt (13)

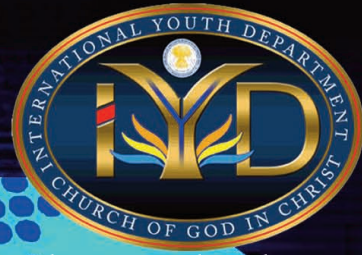
The first illustration is seen in verse 13. "You are the salt of the earth..." Salt was extremely useful as a preservative in food in Christ's day. Salt fights decay in aging meats. If we think of kingdom citizens in this way we can see how we are called to be a type of moral agent in the world. When true kingdom citizens come in contact with the world their words and actions stop evil and decay by spreading spiritual life where there is none.

Notice how Christ continues. "But if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?" Often the salt found in first century Palestinian areas was filled with impurities. The impurities would leach the salt-like qualities from the salt. Salt is pointless if it doesn't prevent decay. Christ says this useless salt is tossed out.

By referring to us as salt, Christ is declaring that true disciples are distinguished by their ability to affect the world with Christ-like characteristics. Like salt, our ability to prevent decay is ruined by impurities. This puts a unique emphasis on our need to pursue the character Christ commands. Though we will never be perfect, our indiscretion and sinfulness ruins our influence. If we are connected to the world but are prideful, gossipers, merciless, angry, lustful, materialistic, and anxious, we are indistinguishable from the decay. Instead of preventing decay, our sin only multiplies it.

But since true salt is distinguished by its ability to prevent rotteness, aren't we called to be more than pure? Does my morality stop decay in the world? Do I stop decay in the world because I don't cuss on my way to work? Do I prevent souls from being condemned by not being a drunkard? Though we must seek purity, being pure doesn't accomplish our purpose. Evangelism is not simply being pure around people, but influencing people.





Remember, salt that doesn't prevent decay is tossed out to be trampled. The question is then put to us. Are we really preventing decay around us? Are our words and actions influencing people? Salt prevents the natural course of things. Is our presence a complete game changer in the world like salty salt is? There are many ways we can do this. Where there is strife, teach others how to cause peace. Where there is gossip, teach compassion. When materialism is rampant, point out how deadly it is. Point them to where true satisfaction and joy is found. But do not stop there. We are not simply bringing morality where there is immorality. This will not permanently prevent decay. Christ prevents decay. Seek opportunities to engage in spiritual conversations. Seek opportunities to tell others about how much serving Christ has affected your life. Conclude those conversations that spark their interest by asking them to study the Bible with you. If this is not our interest, are we not useless salt? Notice how Christ emphasizes a different aspect of our influence with a second illustration in verses 14-15.

## **2: You Are Light (14-15)**

Christ says we are the light of the world. The first illustration told us we are salt and caused us to ask if our words and actions actually prevent decay. This second illustration tells us we are light and will cause us to ask ourselves if we are exposed to the world. What is the purpose of light? Light illuminates a room so that all in darkness can see clearly. If we think of kingdom citizens in this way, we can see how we are a source of illumination and direction in a dark world.

I like how Paul describes Christians in Philippians 2:15. Paul says we need to be "blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world..." The Bible constantly tells us the world is in darkness. People are blind and do not know where to go. When Christ tells us we are the light of the world, he is telling us we are the only ones who can show them where to go. Though Christ is the true light, true disciples are beacons of light that show salvation to those in darkness.

Though both illustrations emphasize our influence, Christ exposes a different danger here. Notice verse 15. Christ says people don't light lamps only to cover them up. People light lamps and put them on a stand so everyone can see. So here the brightness of our light is not questioned. The question is whether or not we are hidden or shining in the darkness and pointing the way to Christ.

How could we have bright, but covered lights? How could we have great character and zeal for God without others ever seeing it? People know we "go to church," but openly talking about and teaching our faith among sinners doesn't happen. We may even laugh at that possibility. As we consider all of these causes of hidden lights, we must realize how serious our lack of connections with sinners are. We must realize how serious our quietness is. Is a lighthouse of any use to lost ships if the light is blocked? We may be the only lights people in our everyday lives ever meet. We are their only hope. We must all be exposed lights. You can't shine a light among my friends. I can't shine a light at your workplace or school.

We can fix this by pursuing life among people. The apostles were not monks. Instead of avoiding the darkness, we must live among the darkness. Do not avoid social functions – welcome them. Do not avoid all interactions with people at work and school – pursue them. Consider how you can increase your exposure in the world and build more relationships with people around you. Use those relationships to pursue your identity: shine light into darkness. Remember, covered lights are useless.

## **3: Glory to the Father (16)**

What are we trying to accomplish by being salt and light? Verse 16 says, "In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." The ultimate fruit of our influence is for God to be glorified. This is supremely important. We are not trying to become an influence who makes a name for ourselves. We are not trying to simply be good moral influences. Our influence as salt and light is meant to cause people to glorify God.

This makes the purpose of our identity more specific. As salt and light, how can we better influence people to love and glorify the Father? Christ says to "let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works." What is the connection between our good works and people glorifying the Father? Consider how Christ caused people to glorify the Father. Christ exemplified true life in his actions and then showed people the path to salvation through his words. When people noticed his transcendent character, he always gave the Father the glory. "He is the one who has sent me."

As salt and light we can influence people to glorify the Father in a similar way. If we have experienced true life, people will see the fruit of that in the blessed, joyful life described in the Sermon on the Mount. People will see us finding true joy in being merciful people who love our enemies. People will see us rejoicing though we are persecuted. People will see us taking great joy in pursuing heavenly treasures by serving God and others, but not pursuing earthly treasures. People will hear us teaching others to do the same. Simply put, people see our joy in obeying the Father and hear our words filled with life and wisdom and are drawn to us as lights. We must then point them the way to salvation and the way to the Father. They will then glorify the Father for sending us to bless the world and show people the path to joy, life, and salvation. Our ultimate goal is to cause the world to recognize God's greatness.

## **Conclusion**

Be the salt of the earth. Salt prevents decay. Be an agent of change in the world that stops people from plunging deeper into sin and death. Don't just exemplify purity. Help people. Be uncovered lights in the world. We cannot teach and show people the way to Christ if we are disconnected. Get involved in people's lives so you can be a bright contrast in their lives. Show people the way to go. Use your influence to cause people to see how great and loving the Father is. Help others glorify him.