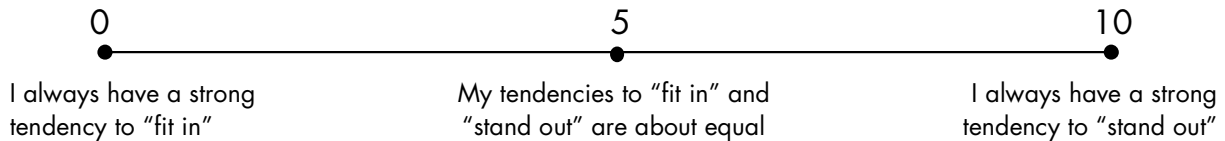


2) THE ADVENTURE OF *NOT* *FITTING IN*



WARM UP: Where would you locate yourself on the following scale?



In what situation do you most want to "fit in" or most want to "stand out"?

"A real Christian is an odd number anyway. He feels supreme love for one he has never seen. He talks familiarly every day to one he cannot see, he expects to go to heaven on the virtue of another, empties himself in order that he might be full, admits he is wrong so that he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up. He is stronger when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so that he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so that he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge." A. W. Tozer

READ MATTHEW 5:1-16

1. The images of salt and light are given by Jesus to represent believers standing out from the crowd. As you look at the list in verses 3-10, what "values of the world" are each of these "values of the Kingdom" countering?
2. Think about the behaviours, attitudes and emotions on display in our society at the moment. How can we be "salt and light" right now... healing, preserving and flavouring the world around us with the Kingdom of God?
3. Is there any area of your life in which you have lost your "saltiness"? (you're blending in to the world rather than standing out for Jesus) What can you do?
4. Read Romans 12:1-2. Conformity to the world is boring, but being transformed by God and guided into God's will through the Spirit is an adventure! How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak and act today?

THIS WEEK'S GO! CHALLENGE: Make a list of deeds of salt and light, to glorify your Father in heaven.

PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to stand out for Jesus this week.