

Salt and Light | Matthew 5:13-16 Sermon Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To discuss practical ways to demonstrate God's "up there" kingdom in our everyday lives.

Sermon Refresher: Jesus announced the good news that through him the "up there" kingdom of God is coming "down here" on earth. He calls us to demonstrate this reality by living as salt and light before the watching world.

Icebreaker: We've all imagined what we would do differently if we could go back in time. Imagine yourself 1,000 years from now, living in the eternal kingdom of God. Now imagine that person went back in time in order to become you today. What do you think he or she would change about your life today?

Transition: In an ideal world, we would live today the way we are going to live in God's eternal kingdom. The reality, however, is that none of us do. Why? Because we're all tempted to live for a different kingdom.

1. Dave said, "The kingdom you're living in determines your sense of identity." What kingdoms are you tempted to live in? How do those kingdoms shape your sense of identity?
2. Read Matthew 5:13 out loud. What are practical ways for Christians to be "salt" in their workplace? With extended family? In other areas of life?

Digging Deeper: Read Col. 4:5-6

In what ways do Christians act foolishly toward outsiders? Have "unseasoned" speech toward outsiders?

What do you think "seasoned" speech and wisdom toward outsiders looks like?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

3. Read Matthew 5:14-16. What are practical ways for Christians to be a “light” to their non-Christian friends? Who are some people in your life God is calling you to be a light to?
4. Read Matthew 5:3-12. What do you think a community of people who are poor in spirit would look like? A community of peacemakers? A community of the merciful? A community of the pure in heart?
5. How do you think the outside world would respond to this kind of community?
6. As you think about the beatitudes, share some areas you think our small group could grow in. What practical steps could we take to grow as “salt and light”?

Sharing and Prayer: Pray for our small group to increasingly become a community that demonstrates God’s “up there” kingdom to the earth “down here.” If you small group identified any specific areas to grow in, then pray for those things.