

## How to Talk to People about Jesus | Matthew 5:13-16

**Purpose of Discussion:** Think together about how we can better influence others toward Jesus.

**Sermon Refresher:** We can influence others toward Jesus by being a good friend (especially when others go through adversity), being a trusted insider, being both like and unlike them, and patiently talking about Jesus.

**Icebreaker:** What are some different experiences/people that God used to bring you toward becoming a Christian?

**Transition:** Most of us were influenced toward Christ by someone, and we are thankful for how God used them. Similarly, God wants to use us to influence others.

### **Discussion:**

1. Do you have some friends who aren't Christians? What could you do to develop those friendships? Do you notice any adversity they're going through that you could be a supportive friend?
2. Read John 17:14-18 out loud.
3. In this passage, we can see that Jesus' desire is that we be "in the world" (not taken out of it or separated from it) but not "of the world" (different in a good way, distinct in how we love and live). Are you more likely to err by being "out of the world" or "of the world?"
4. In what ways are we as Christians in danger of losing our taste/difference? In what ways do we need to work on being different in a good way? (Look back through the beatitudes in v.3-12 to see some of the important ways we as Christians should be different in a good way.)

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

5. Keith said that maybe the best way we can talk about Jesus is to share some of your story of what Jesus means to you. How could you use your story to talk about Jesus? (Think in terms of what Jesus means to you, how Jesus has made a positive impact on your life)
6. What point from the sermon helps you the most to influence others for Jesus?
7. What is the promise for us in verse 16?

**Sharing and Prayer:** One of the ways that we are salty and different is the deep security we have in the Christ. That security frees us to be open and vulnerable about our lives in Christian community. What are some things you need support and prayer for this week?