

The Sermon on the Mount, Part 1 (3 of 10) Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, September 21st, 2025



Sermon Series Summary

Matthew 5-7 is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus went up a mountain and a large crowd gathered to hear him preach a powerful message—proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and casting a vision of what it looks like to live in right relationship with God, our neighbors, and our enemies. These three chapters contain the core of Jesus' teachings and his most well-known sayings, including some of the most rigorous ethical demands in the Bible. Join us for Part 1 of this series (Sept 7-Nov 9), as we explore the message and implications of Jesus' invitation to enter the narrow gate and follow him.

Sermon Title: Different for the World

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon Focus: Salt and light are everyday elements all people rely on. What does Jesus mean when he calls his followers salt and light? The Beatitudes described the qualities of Jesus' followers as being different from the world and Jesus goes on to describe the impact his followers will make. In the third message of our series, Pastor Melissa invites us to live into our identity as people who are different for the sake of the world.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Matthew 5:1-16. How does reading verses 13-16 as flowing from the Beatitudes (vv.1-12) help you understand the dynamic of how God's people are intended to be different *from* the world, but different *for* the world?
2. Pastor Melissa talked about how salt as a preservative is a metaphor for how Christ-followers are to enter places prone to decay to bring healing and guard against further breakdown. Where are you noticing decay around you? Is there a particular situation where God is inviting you to be salt? What could that look like?
3. Is there an area in your life where you have experienced God's grace, healing, or forgiveness in your weakness and need? How has God used that (or how could you imagine him using that in the future) to shine light in someone else's darkness?
4. In terms of your engagement with non-believers, do you tend to be more like a chameleon (engaged, but private about your faith) or musk ox (living in a "Christian bubble")? How could you guard against falling into those traps?
5. What captivates you about Jesus and the way he was distinct from the world, yet engaged in the world?
6. **LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION:** The BLESS paradigm helps us think practically about being salt and light to those around us: **B**egin with prayer, **L**isten, **E**at, **S**erve, **S**hare the story. Who is God placing on your heart that you want to bless? What might be a next step to bless them? Could that step involve any other believers?
7. Pray together for the needs in your lives and in the world. Pray for God to make you more like Jesus, individually and as a group.