

Small Group Discussion Guide

Matthew 5:13-16 - Called to be Salt and Sunshine

Discussion Questions

1. Leaving the Nest The sermon opens with the image of baby geese jumping from the cliff top—a scary but necessary step toward maturity. When have you felt God pushing you out of your comfort zone to live on mission for Him? What fears did you face, and how did you experience His presence with you?

2. Salt That Preserves Jesus calls us to be "salt of the earth"—preserving our communities from decay, adding flavor, and bringing out goodness in others. Where in your life (workplace, neighborhood, family, hobbies) has God uniquely positioned you to be salty? What would it look like to increase your saltiness in that specific context?

3. The Danger of Losing Saltiness The sermon warns against "nominal Christianity"—being so influenced by culture that we lose our effectiveness. What are some ways Christians today blend in too much and lose their saltiness? How can we engage our communities without compromising our distinctiveness?

4. Light in Dark Places Reflecting on the three metaphors (city on a hill, lamp in a room, good deeds), which image resonates most with your current season of life? How might God be calling you to shine His light more brightly where He has placed you?

5. Good Deeds That Point to God Jesus says our light should shine through good works "so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (v. 16). Share an example of when you've seen someone's practical acts of compassion point others toward God. What good deeds might we do to illuminate Christ in your community?

6. Reflecting the Son The sermon closes with the image of the moon reflecting the sun's light—we shine only as we reflect Jesus. What spiritual practices help you stay close to Jesus so that His light naturally radiates through you? How can this group support one another in drawing nearer to Him?