

# "Salt and Light"

## Matthew 5:13-16

### Questions For Study And Community Group Discussion

1. Think up some labels that others might use to describe Christians or Christianity – things we're known for or ways others might describe followers of Jesus. Explain your answers.
2. Read Matthew 5:13-16.
  - What "labels" does Jesus give His followers in these verses?
  - Work towards a bottom line of this entire passage: What's the "big idea" point Jesus is trying to make to His followers?
3. What does it mean to be the "salt of the earth"? What does it look like to live this way, in very practical terms?
4. What does it mean to be the "light of the world"? What does it look like to live this way?
5. Share examples of Christians you know who have been salt and light in their spheres of influence. What sorts of things did they do? How did these actions influence others?
6. What hurdles keep you from being salt and light in your sphere of influence? (Examples could be a desire to blend in, not knowing what obedience looks like in a certain area, or something else.) Explain your response.
7. Salt and light each carry the idea of leaving a noticeable difference in a positive way. From what you've learned in this passage, what is one practical thing you'll do this week in your own sphere of influence, to make a noticeable difference in a positive way?
8. As the part of the worship service on Sunday, we also provided a "For the City" update. As we continue to make progress with this initiative, what excites you most about it?
9. Review the B.L.E.S.S. acronym that we've been talking about as part of this For the City initiative. Why is each one of these letters a meaningful part of blessing others and living "For the City"?
  - B – Begin with prayer**
  - L – Listen to what matters to them**
  - E – Eat with them**
  - S – Serve them**
  - S – Share the story of how Jesus is changing you**
10. Spend time as a group praying for this "For the City" initiative. This is a God-sized initiative, and we want God to guide us and bring life to our efforts! Pray for bold dependence, reliance on God's Word and sensitivity to His Spirit, and that this "For the City" initiative would continue to take root in the life of our church family as we keep moving ahead.

Challenge: Memorize Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."