

SERMON STUDY GUIDE



“Salt and Light”- PREACHED ON APRIL 13 & 14, 2024

READ

Read Matthew 5:1-16. Read it each day, perhaps in a different translation each day. (A great resource for looking at various translations is www.biblegateway.com.)

DISCUSS

What stood out to you as you continued to read last week’s passage? Where did you see yourself aligning with the Kingdom of God this week? Does this week’s reading add anything to your understanding of your place in the kingdom?

STUDY

Jesus often speaks in metaphors, comparing one thing to another in his teachings. Salt was a valuable tool in the ancient world. It not only added flavor but helped preserve food. The Latin word for salt was *sal* and is the basis for our word “salary.” Salt was so valuable it was used as payment! The idea of salt being trampled because it was useless would have been a vivid picture for Jesus’ audience. Imagine throwing out an expensive, new refrigerator because it wasn’t cooling. As Christ followers, the light of God is something intrinsic in us — without it, what are we?

1. Where in the Bible do you see people being “salty” and shining their light? Find a story of someone who shared God’s message with others without losing their saltiness or their light. What do you learn about being the light from this character?
2. Read Isaiah 42:6-7. Even in the Old Testament God wanted to bring light to the Gentiles. What does this mean for us as modern-day Christians?
3. People in our own lives can also shine God’s light to us. Is there someone you know who’s always shared God’s truth with you?

PRACTICE

How can you practice being the salt of the earth this week? What is distinctly Christian about your character that you bring into the world? How do you live as a person of light in the world? Pick one practice with your group and try it each day. Notice how your understanding of God’s kingdom changes with this practice. Be ready to share with your group the next time you meet!