

.....

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."
[Francis of Assisi]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

What small act of kindness has someone done for you recently that added "flavor" to your day?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"
[1 Peter 2:9]

BIG IDEA

Christians bless the world with good works because they have been blessed, are being blessed, and will be blessed by an infinitely good King.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

1. In the sermon we heard, *"Jesus' Kingdom people are different and therefore, make a difference."* How has someone else's "salt and light" witness impacted your own walk with Christ?

Matthew 5:13-16

2. Why does Jesus emphasize that salt can lose its flavor and light can be hidden?
3. How does being "salt and light" show those around us that our Christian identity precedes our actions?
4. Why is it important that our good works point to God rather than ourselves?
5. In the sermon we heard, *"Being salt and light does not necessarily change what we do, but it does change how and why we do it."* How is God inviting you to change how and why you are already doing something, so that it is filled with salt and light?
6. How can we guard against living as "tasteless salt" or "hidden light"?
7. What is currently diminishing your "saltiness" or hiding your "light" in daily life?
8. What is one specific area in your life where you need to let your light shine more openly?
9. What are practical ways our group can be "salt" and "shine light" together?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Good works, fueled by grace, are meant to *glorify the Father and serve as a foretaste of His Kingdom*. Remember ...

Being salt and light is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Being salt and light means we go to bless NOT to get blessed.

Being salt and light is a vision for how to live and that is worth living for!

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How am I tempted to “hide my light” out of fear, comfort, and convenience? 2) How might I live that causes others to ask, “What a good Father you must have”?

Step of Faith Ideas

1. Identify one specific place or relationship this week where you can intentionally live as “salt and light.” Pray for the courage to do so!
2. Commit to daily asking, “How can my life today glorify my Father in heaven?”

PRAYER FOCUS

Blessed to Bless

Let’s prayerfully awaken gratitude for God’s blessings and invite Him to lead us in blessing others through good works.

- *Take a moment in silence to thank God for one blessing from the past, one blessing you’re experiencing now, and one promise of blessing you’re holding for the future.*
- Think about a short prayer: “Lord, thank you for blessing me with ____.” Give a simple response—one blessing per person at a time.
- Consider a prayer of availability: “Lord, because you bless me, help me bless the world by ____.” Here are a few examples:
 - “... showing kindness to my coworker.”
 - “... sharing hope with someone who’s hurting.”
- Close your prayer time by reading this prayer together:
 - *“Good King Jesus, you have blessed us,
are blessing us, and will bless us forever.
Send us to bless the world with Your goodness.
May our good works bring glory to You. Amen.”*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [The Salt of the Land](#) & [The Light of the City](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.