

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SALT OF THE EARTH

SPEAKER: Russell Joyce

DATE: April 12, 2026

TEXT(S): Matt. 5:13 with Lev. 2:13; Rom. 1:19-31; John 15:4-5; and 1 Cor. 3:12-15

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Pastor Russell explores Jesus' declaration that believers are the "salt of the earth." The qualities of salt point us to the often unseen lives that bring preservation, healing, and transformation through covenant faithfulness. This happens as we abide in Christ, especially through suffering, which purifies our faith and amplifies its spiritual impact. True "saltiness" flows from belonging to Jesus as Lord and His people. When believers resist idols and endure patiently together, their lives quietly shape others'. However, Christian witness often costs us something. Like dissolving salt, we surrender to God's way, producing lasting fruit that reveals His faithful presence in the world.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. What's a small thing that made a big impact in your life recently?
2. What comes to mind when you think of salt?
3. Do you prefer being behind the scenes or up front, and why?
4. Describe a time when you experienced the power of community.
5. How do you typically respond when pressured?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) above. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. What does Jesus mean by salt "losing its saltiness" in Matthew 5:13?
2. How does Leviticus 2:13 deepen our understanding of salt as a symbol of covenant?
3. What is the progression of "foolishness" described in Romans 1?
4. How does John 15 connect abiding with fruitfulness?
5. How does 1 Corinthians 3 describe the testing of a believer's life?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How do our modern cultures define belonging differently from how it's portrayed in the Gospel?
2. How can social media erode or distort identity and "saltiness"?
3. What are modern "idols" that compete with devotion to Christ?
4. How do hurry and life's busy demands impact spiritual depth in your culture?
5. What would it look like for Christians to be distinctly salty without being divisive?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Where might God be asking you to "be salt" right now?
2. What impurities or distractions might be dulling you spiritually, eroding your saltiness?
3. What helps you abide in Christ daily? What holds you back?
4. Who in your life might be impacted by your quiet faithfulness?
5. What would it look like to live this week as someone who belongs to God?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5 minutes:*

1. **Abide and Surrender Prayer:** Begin each day this week by praying something like this, "Jesus, already I belong to You. Help me abide in and with You today. Purify me through the work of Your Spirit and make me salt in every interaction." Add more as you feel led, but keep this example at the heart of your prayer. After you finish, sit in silence for a few minutes, listening and surrendering your schedule, pressures, and relationships to Jesus.
2. **Evening Salt Reflection:** This week, as you wind down from each day, reflect with God: Where did I bring life, preservation, or encouragement today? Where did I lose my "salty" distinctiveness or compromise? You might consider journaling those questions. Close by thanking Jesus for His faithfulness and asking for renewed "saltiness" tomorrow.

You can find B4's [Series Resources here](#).

