

Small Group Discussion Questions

SENT: Salt and Light

(Matthew 5:1-16)

- 1. How do the Beatitudes shape the way we should understand Jesus' words, "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world"?**
 - a. What qualities in Matthew 5:3–12 make Christian witness distinctive?

- 2. What is the significance of salt in the Old Testament covenant story?**

Look at Leviticus 2:13, Numbers 18:19, and 2 Chronicles 13:5.

 - a. How does the idea of a "covenant of salt" deepen the meaning of Jesus' words?

- 3. Jesus says "you are" the salt of the earth—not "you should become" salt.**
 - a. What difference does that make?
 - b. How is being salt primarily about identity before it is about activity?

- 4. How does Jesus' image of light connect with Isaiah's vision for Israel?**

Consider Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 60:1–3, and Isaiah 2:1–5.

 - a. What was Israel called to be for the nations, and how does Jesus apply that calling to his disciples?

- 5. The "you" in "you are the salt" and "you are the light" is plural.**
 - a. Why does that matter?
 - b. How does this challenge an individualistic understanding of evangelism and Christian witness?

6. **Jesus says people should see our good deeds and glorify the Father.**
 - a. What kinds of “good deeds” make God more visible rather than simply making Christians look impressive?
 - b. What might that look like in a church community today?

7. **The sermon suggests that “Jesus doesn’t separate the message we proclaim from the people we become.”**
 - a. Where have you seen a Christian’s character either strengthen or undermine their witness?
 - b. Why might mercy, humility, peacemaking, generosity, and truthfulness be forms of evangelism themselves?

8. **What do you think it means for a church to “lose its saltiness” or to hide its light?**
 - a. Conversely, what is one thing a congregation could do together that would make Jesus easier for its neighbours to see?