

Read **Matthew 5:13-16** and discuss the following.

How does this passage connect with the preceding passage, especially **Matthew 5:10-12**? List as many as come to mind.

Describe a time when you've been tempted to withdrawal. Has persecution ever made you want to hide or be silent about your faith? Explain.

Jesus says His disciples are salt and light. List the many qualities associated with each. What are the benefits of salt? What are the benefits of light?

How might "*the salt of the earth*" lose its saltiness? Explain.

Try to imagine a world without salt and light. What would be most different? How would daily life change? What are some spiritual implications that can be drawn from this?

What might it look like for believers to be salt and light—witnesses of God's saving work? Where would this be most evident? Who would be impacted?

What is the ultimate hope and goal of living holy lives before the world? **(v.16)**

What is the difference in fulfilling our responsibilities as believers *from* a place of blessing, rather than *for* the hope of blessing? How might one's motivation and enjoyment vary depending on their approach?

Is there a situation in your life right now where fear is a more powerful factor than faithfulness in your witness?

What about this passage and discussion has most comforted and/or convicted you personally?