

SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Week Six — Salt & Light****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

The Sermon on the Mount is full of teachings Jesus gave about what the Kingdom of God is like and how we can live in the reality of his good kingdom here and now.

- **Big Idea:** Our actions and words and presence can be a light to the rest of the world revealing what God is like.

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**
Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- **Ask:** What is the saltiest thing you have ever eaten? Have you ever seen the big lights in a stadium or a street light? What do those lights do? (*They allow people to see what's around them, what they are doing, or where they are going. They also attract things — bugs!*)
- **Imagine:** You are stranded on a mountain and it is the middle of the night. There are no lights around and it is pitch black. You hear a helicopter off in the distance. First, you light a match so the helicopter can see you. Then you turn on your phone light. Then you turn on a flood light. Which one will be more likely to be seen by a rescuer?

Sing Together

Story — from Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus continued teaching the crowd that followed him up the mountain about what the kingdom of God is like. In this part of the sermon, Jesus said God's kingdom people are like salt and light. He used these analogies to help people understand how they are to live. They are to live in such a way that preserves the world around them and sheds light on who God is and what He has done so that He is worshiped in the whole world.

Jesus said, *"You are the salt of the earth! But if the salt becomes tasteless, how is it going to get salty again? It is no good for anything. You might as well throw it out and walk all over it."*

Salt has many uses, but it was often used as a purification agent or as a preservative in the ancient days of the Old Testament. Jesus' disciples are to purify a broken world by bringing glory to God through the way they live and through the good news of the kingdom that they speak. Jesus wants us to also preserve the goodness of God's good creation by the way we care for people and the world around us. If salt 'loses its taste' that looks like foolish and sinful behavior. It refers to someone who says they follow Jesus with their words, but how they live says something different. The way they live does not match what they profess. They are not salty.

Jesus then went on to say, *"You are the light of the world! A city can't be hidden if it's on top of a hill. People don't light a lamp and put it under a bucket; they put it on a lamp stand. Then it gives light to everybody in the house. That's how you must shine your light in front of people! Then they will see what wonderful things you do, and they'll give glory to your father in heaven."*

Jesus said the way we live our lives should be a light for the rest of the world to see and be attracted to in such a way that Jesus is known, glorified, and seen as the true light of the world. Jesus is the one who has brought light to a dark world. Jesus is the one who has purified the world through his blood on the cross. We don't bless others, give to the person in need, preach the gospel and do good works so that the spotlight is on us, but so that people are attracted to Jesus and follow Him.

Dialogue Questions: *[you may use some or all]*

- What does it mean to be salty?
- What are some things we can do so that others see Jesus?
- What does it mean to be a light to the world?
- Why do you think Jesus said, *"You are the light of the **world**"*? Why didn't he say, *"You are the light of Jerusalem"* or *"of Galilee"* where the crowd lived? *(Everyone in the world is invited into God's kingdom, not just certain groups)*
- Is there someone that comes to mind who needs to hear the good news of the Kingdom of God or see the light of Jesus?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us what your kingdom is like and to invite us into it. We pray for the Spirit to give us wisdom and strength to love you and others in such a way that others may see you, Jesus. Amen.

Craft:

- Take a coffee filter and have the kids cut designs in it. Have them take turns shining a flashlight through the coffee filter onto a wall with all of the room lights turned off. You can use the following dialogue to illustrate a point:

Light takes away the darkness. Jesus is the light of the world. The world is full of sin and brokenness, but Jesus is good, right, and beautiful. When Jesus entered the world, he brought God's Kingdom and made it good. Jesus uses us to show others what God's kingdom is like.

Look at this flashlight. Jesus is like the flashlight, the place where the light is coming from.

[cover the flashlight with the coffee filter]

Look at how the light comes through the coffee filter and shines on the wall. Jesus is the light and we are like the coffee filter. The wall is like the world. We are the light of the world because people see Jesus through us.

- There are two coloring sheets attached, one for salt and one for light.

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Bless** rhythm.

You have been blessed by God through Jesus! How can you shine your light and be a blessing to others this week by showing them the good life in God's Kingdom?

Matthew 5:14



You are
the
Light

☆ of the ☆



A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

You are

the

SALT

of the

earth



MATTHEW 5:13

