

Making More Christians
Matthew 5:10–16

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

God uses...

1. _____ Christians *to make more...*
2. _____ Christians *to make more...*
3. _____ Christians *to make more...*
4. _____ Christians *to make more...*
5. _____ Christians *to make more...*

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Small Group Study Guide

Matthew 5:10–16

Getting Started

1) One Sunday, we looked at *sharing our faith without being creepy, mean, or fake*. From your experience, which one have you encountered most from others? Would you add anything to this list?

Digging Deeper

2) In verse 13, Jesus calls Christians the “*salt of the earth*.” Salt was used in several ways in the ancient Near East. Below are some of those uses. Discuss how they might suggest ways Christians ought to live in the world:

- Since salt was used *to preserve* (e.g., keeping meat from decaying), what are some ways Christians can be a practical preservative in their neighborhoods, city, country, and culture?
- Since salt was used *to heal* (e.g., gargling with salt), can you think of examples of both well-known and relatively unknown Christians who have brought health and healing to their communities? How did they do it?
- Since salt was used *to bring out the flavor of food*, what does a cook’s handling of salt suggest about how we share the gospel?

3) Jesus warns Christians about the possibility of losing their saltiness and never getting it back. What are some biblical and modern examples of individuals, churches, or Christian organizations that have gradually or quickly lost their credibility or influence because of compromise? What might you look for in your own life to determine if you are losing your “saltiness”?

4) In verse 14, Jesus calls Christians “*the light of the world*.” Compare this verse with John 8:12, Philippians 2:15, and Ephesians 5:8. What do “light” and “darkness” signify? Do the different examples of light that Jesus gives suggest different ways we might understand how our light works? If so, how?

5) In verses 14–15, Jesus addresses the temptation of Christians to conceal their light. What are some ways that *you* tend to shy away from sharing your faith? How does the Bible address those reasons?

6) Jesus implies an intimate connection between our good works and our verbal witness. In verse 10, he speaks of those who are persecuted for “righteousness’ sake” (good works), and then he immediately talks about those who are persecuted “on my account,” like the “prophets” (i.e., talkers!) were in the Old Testament (vv. 11–12). Can Christians “hide” their faith behind good works? Explain.

7) Fill in the blank with as many traits as you can: *God uses _____ Christians to make more Christians*. Explain.

Putting It Into Practice

8) Pray about simple ways to be salt and light in the particular situations you are in right now.