



Created for Influence
January 12, 2025 | Matthew 5:13-16
Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read Matthew 5:13-16.*

1. **Ice-breaker:** Who do you know personally who's made a noticeable, positive difference in their sphere of influence? What about them makes them stand out in this way?
2. What does Jesus mean when He calls His followers "salt"? When He calls them "light"?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus tells His followers, "You are salt You are light"?
4. When you think of your identity as a Christ follower, do words like "salt" and "light" come to mind? How should seeing these words as part of your identity affect the way you live?
5. Pastor Jeff mentioned three features of salt and light that help us better understand what Jesus is getting at — these features are mentioned below. After each, share (1) what each feature means in your own words and (2) how you can apply it:
 - Distinct
 - Integrated
 - Influential
6. What alternatives to living as salt and light are there? Are you especially prone to any of these alternatives? Explain.
7. In your own words, why is it important for followers of Jesus to live as salt and light?
8. Read Matthew 5:16 again. Why is it vital that we understand the purpose statement Jesus gives: that others may see our good deeds "and glorify your Father who is in heaven"?
9. Read Philippians 2:14-15 and 1 Peter 2:11-12. How do these verses either reinforce or add to what you've seen today about living as salt and light?
10. Think ahead to your life this coming week — the situations you'll be in and the people you'll be around. In very practical terms, how can you live as "salt" and "light" in your spheres of influence this week?
11. What other questions or comments do you have about what you've looked at in the Bible today?
12. What was your biggest take-away from the message? Why?
13. Challenge: Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you're learning this coming week?
14. Challenge: Memorize Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."