

### (1) An Opening THOUGHT

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

### (2) Read the TEXT Together

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

### (3) Key POINTS

- Receiving God’s generous gift changes who you are.
- You play a critical role in the Kingdom of God – let your light shine!

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?  
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**GROUPS RESOURCE**

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER



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#### (4) Looking to the WORD

- Read Matthew 5:13-16 again. What is Jesus saying? Share it in your own words.
- What warning does Jesus give in this passage?
- Read Matthew 5:1-12. How do The Beatitudes tie into Jesus' teaching in verses 13-16?

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#### (5) Looking at our WORLD

- What are practical ways that followers of Jesus can be salt and light in the world today?
- Is there a story from your life personally or from someone you know of how letting your light shine has made a real difference?

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#### (6) Looking at our LIVES

- As you read Jesus' words in this passage, what are you most challenged by?
- What are specific ways that you believe God is calling you personally to be salt and light in the world today?
- What sometimes keeps you from being a witness? Is it fear, busyness, people-pleasing, lack of desire, other? What are ways that your GROUP can support you in letting your light shine?

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#### (7) On-Ramps: Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together

- If you haven't already, receive God's generous gift of salvation.
- Remember who you are. Spend time in prayer or journaling and ask Jesus to remind you who He has made you to be.
- Consider the warning in this passage. Ask Jesus to reveal to you if there are things you are allowing to darken your light.
- Shine. Encourage a friend. Support a Kingdom project or cause. Do something that lights up someone else.