

Counter Rev Small Group Conversation based on Matthew 5:13-16

Keep this conversation no longer than 35-45 minutes. Do your best to draw out the contributions of everyone. Land the time in prayer, but remember to gently coach people who haven't prayed in a group before. There is no pressure to pray aloud. Encourage people to download the commentary of Matthew 5:13-16 off the website for personal study during their devotional times this week. Also remind people to bring their Bibles to group.

Getting to know each other

- Who is the most person in your family or in your place of study / work with the greatest tendency to influence others? What is it about that person that enables them to have this influence?

Understanding Christ's teaching in Matthew 5:13-16

- *If some of your group did not hear the Sunday message, then play the summary audio clip.*
- 1) *Read verse 13.* What are some similarities you can think of between salt and the impact of Christians in this world?
- 2) Salt works by both contact and contrast. If either one of these two aspects are missing, it makes no impact. How is this a picture of the role of Christians in society?
- 3) *Read verses 14 and 15.* What are some similarities you can think of between light and the impact of Christians in this world?
- 4) Why is it so important that Christians are public and open about their relationship with God and their knowledge of the gospel, as opposed to private or secretive?
- 5) *Read verse 16.* Verses 14 and 15 refer in part to our proclaiming the truth about God, and verse 16 refers to demonstrating the character of God in our deeds. Why is both a) telling people the gospel and b) acting out the gospel so important if we are to influence the world towards God?

Applying Christ's teaching in Matthew 5:13-16

- If you can think of one, share a story of how God used you (or another Christian you know) to be salt and light in a situation recently.
- What one thing in your life most undermines your ability to salt and light friends and family? And what one thing in your life most undermines your ability to salt and light people you work or study with?

Praying about Christ's teaching in Matthew 5:13-16

- In groups of 2 to 3, briefly share 1) the main thing you feel God highlighting to you through this Scripture and this time together and 2) what you'd like prayer for in regard to being salt and light. Then pray for each other in line with what each person shared.