



Life Group Discussion Guide  
“An Influential Christian”  
April 23, 2017

Open in prayer

- Who has been the most influential person in your life? Why?
- Who is someone in your life that you've influenced?

Read Matthew 5:13-16

**The Big Idea:** An authentic follower of Jesus is an influential Christian. Like salt and light we can't help but have an immediate impact on the people in our lives. The closer we are to Jesus the saltier and brighter we will be.

- How do you identify someone as a Christian?
- How are Christians identified in popular culture?
- If the Beatitudes are the **inner qualities** of a follower of Jesus, what does it look like when these qualities are lived out.

One author said it this way, **“we must be good news before we can share good news.”**

- Why does Jesus use salt and light?
- What purposes come to mind when you think of salt and light?

**History** - Salt was very valuable. Romans soldiers were often paid in salt. There is an old saying... “He is not worth his salt.”

In New Testament times light was treasured because it wasn't easy to have. Light was obtained by a fire place of some kind or by clay lamps filled with oil and a wick.

Matthew 5:13-16 MSG - ““Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. “Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.”

**Salt**

- **Preservative**

- **Flavor**
- **Causes thirst**

Colossians 4:6 - "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

### **Light**

- **Helps you see**
- **Dispels darkness**
- **Awakens**

Isaiah 9:2 - "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness because you will have the light that leads to life."

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer** - "A flight into the invisible is a denial of the call. A community of Jesus which seeks to hide itself has ceased to follow him."

**We do the shining and God gets the credit.** Light does not call attention to itself. It provides illumination so other things can be seen.

- What can you do in your life to be salt and light?
- How can you be an influencer?