

## BBC SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE △▽◀▷

### Sermon on the Mount: the Call of a Believer and the Role of the Law - Matthew 5:13-20

**How to use this guide:** This fall we invite you to join our church family in digging deeper into the Scripture(s) preached each Sunday. We believe life change happens best in the context of small community where you can engage God's Word while inviting people into your life to encourage you to continue growing in Christ-likeness.

**Background:** After giving His followers the beatitudes, which revealed both the qualities and promises that the citizens of Jesus' Kingdom would possess and receive, Jesus instructs them on their call in this world and the role of the Old Testament until the end of this age.

#### Getting Started: Personal Study

1. How do the qualities of salt and light provide insight into our call as followers of Jesus?
2. Before refrigeration, salt was used to prevent meat from rotting. What events in the news have you observed recently that indicates society is rotting?
3. How does our call to be light compliment our calling to be salt?
4. Why are we tempted to be "salt without flavor," or a "light that is hidden?"
5. How does Jesus view those who reject the call to be salt and light?
6. What should the result be of our being salt and light?
7. Why might some people think that Jesus came to abolish the law?
8. How should you study and apply the Old Testament today?
9. What is the greater righteousness we must have to be citizens of God's Kingdom?

#### Digging Deeper: Scripture Connections

1. Salt was used in a variety of way in the Old Testament. It represented new beginnings, purity, new beginnings or even being set apart. What do some of these passages tell us about salt?  
*Leviticus 2:11-13 (in light of Numbers 18:14-19 & 2 Chronicles 13:1-7) Ezra 6:9 Ezekiel 16:4*  
*Judges 9:45 2 Kings 2:21 Job 6:6*
2. Light or sources of light also are used throughout the Old Testament to inform us of our call as followers of Jesus. What do the sources of light represent in these passages?  
*Psalm 36:5-9 Psalm 119:105 Proverbs 6:20-23 Proverbs 20:27 1 Kings 15:1-4*  
*2 Samuel 22:29 Exodus 10:21-23 Exodus 13:20-22 Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:1-7; 60:1-7*
3. God's laws appear throughout the Old Testament. What are some insights we can gain from the following passages?  
*Genesis 2:15-3:3 Exodus 19:20 Exodus 34:1-35 2 Chronicles 34:1-33 Ezra 7:1-10*  
*Nehemiah 7:73-8:10 Psalm 19:7-11 Psalm 119:160-176 Romans 10:2-4*

#### Getting Together: Group Study & Discussion

1. Which qualities of salt and light have you been thinking about as you take the next steps in following Jesus?
2. What things in your life do you recognize might cause you to lose your saltiness?
3. What are some of the "bowls" that Christians hide their light under?
4. As you look back at your journey in following Jesus, have you had a season where you let your light show brilliantly to others? What did that look like? How did you grow through that season?
5. Where do you long to see the light of Christ shine into the darkness?
6. If the Old Testament didn't exist, what would be missing in our understanding of God?
7. How would you respond to someone who said the Old Testament law is no longer applicable?
8. Why is the permanence of God's Law significant to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
9. How does Jesus teaching in Matthew 5:17-20 challenge you to view the Law as you live as a Christian?