

Encounter

Discussion Guide

Week of November 5 - **“Where You Live, Work, Worship, & Play”**

Scripture verse: Matthew 5:13-16

LOOKING BACK:

Perhaps last week's assignment might have seemed too difficult. Maybe fear set in just as soon as you were directed to pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal someone close to you who is not close to God followed by having to practice that conversation with another group member rehearsing the way you would share with that person. Or maybe you felt like you didn't even know what you would say in the first place. That is why it's a good practice to walk through a mock conversation with another small group member before your actual encounter.

If you did start a gospel conversation with someone last week, how did that go? How did he/she respond? How did you feel about your part in that conversation? Did that lead to a future meeting?

LEADER NOTE: One way to build confidence in having a gospel conversation with people is by getting some training on how to start gospel conversations. Small group leaders are getting that training during this week Nov. 5, 6,

or 7, 2023. They can help you learn how to be equipped with telling God's Story too.

OPENING QUESTION: Generally, we have salt at the table and use it several ways. What are some of the different ways we use salt? Consider these different uses while studying today's passage.

LOOKING UP:

1. Someone in a disciple making training course once said, "Ask the Lord to open your eyes to see where the kingdom is not and start there to be the light or salt needed." What did this person actually mean by this statement?
2. What does the effect of light have on people, plants, photography, and crime?
3. Now read the passage below and ask the first 2 questions.

<p>READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Matthew 5:13-16</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<p>1. What stood out to you most?</p> <p>2. What was challenging or hard to understand?</p> <p>3. What does this teach us about God?</p>	<p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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4. What does this teach us about people?

LOOKING FORWARD:

1. If we are the light stand that holds the light of Christ, where would be the best location to place a light stand? While you pray today, ask the Lord to open your eyes to see where the kingdom is not and start there to be the light or salt needed.

2. While you prepare to go into the marketplace where you work, school you attend, restaurant you frequent, sports team you are a part of, or gym you go to work out at, pray for the Lord to show you someone who is not near Him. Ask the Lord to cause their heart to be curious about the things of God. Then approach this person by saying, "The Lord brought you to my mind... how could I pray for you this week?" See if this opens a gospel conversation. Be willing to pray right there and then with the person. Next time we meet, let's share how these conversations went and give God the glory and thanks for how he worked each of our encounters.

3. End your time by praying for God to open our eyes and hearts to reach those people far from the Lord where we work, live, and play.