

1. Discuss what Jesus meant when He said to His disciples in v13 "You are the salt of the earth"?

(Think of some of the uses of salt in Jesus' day – a precious commodity for trade, preservation, adding flavour and healing. What does this say about us and our potential effect on society?)

2. Look at v13 again and Jesus' reference to salt losing its saltiness.

According to one commentator **'the loss of saltiness occurs in the failure of the Christian to daily take up the cross and follow Christ wholeheartedly. When Christians depart from the Spirit-led lifestyle of genuine discipleship the result is that the distinction between us and the world becomes blurred and our testimony is hindered.'**

Can people in your family, workplace and neighbourhood see that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Are people in your life thirsty to know more about Christ because of your witness and testimony? Why do you think this is?

When is it most difficult to be distinctively Christian and stand apart from the world? Why is it important to maintain our distinctiveness?

What encouragements can you give each other to persevere in standing for Christ and making him known by your life and witness?

3. How can you fulfil your calling to be "salt" in **your** workplace, family, neighbourhood, and community (5:13)?

How can you help to stop the moral and spiritual decay?

How can you help to preserve truth and goodness?

Commentator Matthew Henry said: 'We must not only be good but do good.'

What good things can you do to 'add flavour' and bring out the best in society?

Think of practical examples.

4. What did Jesus mean when He said in v14 “You are the light of the world”?
(Think of some of the uses of light – to illuminate and give comfort. Light is also a picture in scripture of God – contrasted with sin and evil which are darkness.
What does this say about us and our potential effect on society?)
5. What is the darkest relational sphere in your life currently: family, friendships, work or neighbourhood? How can you bring the brightest light to shine in this darkest area?
6. Why would anyone want to put a light under a bowl? Why do we?
7. Is the focus of your life to bring God glory (5:16)? What does that look like?
Is it possible to receive praise and still point people to Christ?
How can I make sure that I do not share in God’s glory (Isaiah 42:8)?
8. Spend time praying for each other to be effective in being ‘the salt of the earth’ and ‘the light of the world.’