



Exploring God's Story

1. Describe some purposes for salt (primarily in food).
2. Share what you think Jesus is saying about salt in verse 13 (not how it applies to us, yet).
3. Share what you think God is revealing through Jesus' teaching in verse 13.
4. Share what you think Jesus is saying about light and a city on a hill in verses 14 & 15 (not how it applies to us, yet).
5. Share what you think God is revealing through Jesus' teaching in verses 14 & 15.
6. Share what you think God is revealing through Jesus' teaching in verse 16, especially as it is built upon verses 13-15.

Examining Our Story within God's Story

7. Do you remember a food dish that surprised you when you found out it contained salt and, if so, what was it?
8. Describe a specific food that just is no good to you if it is not salted (be specific, if you can).
9. Describe anything that interests, surprises, and/or amazes you about light.
10. Share your thoughts on houses, buildings, or structures built on a hill. What did you notice?

B.A.S.I.C. Training (Life Application) *Five observation about salt that also apply to our spiritual lives.

11. Salt adds flavor to the dish that it is in. Christians are called to the salt of the earth and add "flavor" to world we live in. How can this be good? How can this be bad?
12. Salt creates thirst. How can we, as Christians and through the power of the Holy Spirit, live lives that help others thirst for all that we have in Christ Jesus?
13. Salt is a preservative. What is our legacy as Christians? What are we "preserving" in our world (what will outlast us)? Does the saying "what you allow will continue" add to this discussion?
14. To be effective, salt must mingle with and become a part of the dish it is to season. How does that apply to us Christians called to be salt of the earth?
15. Salt is meant to enhance a dish or specific food, but it is never the meal/dish itself; the focus should never be on the salt. How does this fact apply to our lives as Christian lives?

Digging Deeper *Four observation about light that also apply to our spiritual lives.

- Light and darkness cannot coexist; when the light is turned on, the darkness vanishes. Where there is light, there cannot be darkness; the converse is also true. How does this apply to our spiritual lives?
- Like a lighthouse, light can help keep people away from danger and lead to safety. How can we, as Christians, be lighthouses in our world?
- Like headlights on a car, light can reveal the path forward. How can we, as Christians, be headlamps in our world?
- Like a fireplace, light can provide warmth and comfort. How can we, as Christians, be fireplaces in our world?

Studying Further (Optional Additional Self-Study)

It is the nature of light to dispel darkness and when it is given the opportunity to do so, the light of Jesus will dispel the spiritual darkness. He came to light our path to God. When that light shines, men are called to make a choice.

- How does John 3:16-21 (especially 19-21) reveal about light and darkness? How does this apply to our spiritual lives?
- Some prefer the darkness and seek to remain in it. Because light and darkness cannot coexist, to remain in darkness requires a suppression of the light. Why do people (we) choose darkness over the light?