



# Salt & Light: Devotional





## DAY 1

### Begin by reading Matthew 5:13-16.

This familiar passage of scripture is a small part of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' charge to be "salt and light" follows the well-known Beatitudes of verses 3-12. Matthew indicates in verses 1 and 2 of chapter 5 that Jesus is specifically addressing His disciples. In the Beatitudes, the focus is on the character of true followers of Christ. Followers of Christ should demonstrate humility, a hatred for personal sin, mercy, a hunger for righteousness, purity of heart, etc. Jesus' teaching then transitions from the character of His followers to the impact His followers should have on the world. He uses two metaphors—salt and light—to illustrate the ways in which His disciples are to influence the world around them. We will look at different properties of salt and the way in which Jesus talks about light to help us better understand our roles as followers of Christ.

Why do you think Jesus refers to His followers as salt? Give it your best guess.

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One distinctive of salt is salt is common. Salt is not rare. It is not hard to find and it is not the Mount were just as familiar with salt as we are. The truth implied in this passage is that God uses common people to do His work all over the world. Let's look at a few examples from the Bible.

### OBSERVATION:

Refer to Genesis 11:27-32 and Genesis 12:1-3 to answer the following questions about Abram, later renamed Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel.

Who was Abram's father?

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Read Joshua 24:2 and record what you learn about Abram's father.

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# DAY 1

In what ways was Abram common? In other words, what might seem to disqualify Abram from being chosen by God to accomplish His purpose?

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What does God promise to do for Abram?

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**Read Exodus 4:10-15 about Moses, the man chosen by God to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.**

In what ways was Moses common? What might seem to disqualify Moses from being chosen by God to accomplish His purpose?

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What does God promise to do for Moses?

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**Read Judges 6:11-16 about Gideon, the man chosen by God to deliver Israel from the Midianites.**

What might seem to disqualify Gideon from being chosen by God to accomplish His purpose?

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# DAY 1

What does God promise to do for Gideon?

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## REFLECTION:

In what ways are you common? What might seem to disqualify you from being chosen by God to accomplish His purpose?

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Read the words of Paul in Philippians 2:13. Who is at work in you?

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**Read what Paul says to the followers of Christ in Corinth in I Corinthians 1:26-31, then answer the following questions.**

Why does God often choose to use those who are not wise according to earthly standards, those who are not of noble birth, and those who may appear weak to accomplish His purpose?

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If we have believed on Jesus for salvation, what do we have in Jesus (verses 30-31)?

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# DAY 1

## APPLICATION:

Do you view your weaknesses as a reason to shy away from being on mission with God? If yes, how so?

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Specifically, how might God want to use your “common-ness” for His glory?

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## INSPIRATION:

What have you learned about God and His ways through the scriptures today?

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If, like Abraham, you are not a part of a family who serves God, or if, like Moses, you are not articulate or talented, or if you are considered the least in your family like Gideon, be encouraged! The same God who was at work in them “is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” God loves to use common people to accomplish His purposes. He is not dependent on your talent to accomplish His will; rather, He has invited you to be a part of His great story of redemption for His name’s sake. Take a few moments to thank God for graciously pursuing and saving common, sinful people and inviting us to be a part of what He is doing around the world. Ask Him to use the gifts He has given you and those things that might seem to disqualify you for His glory.





## DAY 2

**Begin by reading Matthew 5:13-16 again.**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus refers to His followers as “salt of the earth” and “light of the world”. The different characteristics of salt and light illustrate the impact believers are to have on the world around them. One characteristic of salt is salt is common. God often chooses to use common people to further His kingdom and accomplish His purpose. Another characteristic of salt is salt has value. Our culture does not think of salt as being valuable because it is not expensive and it is easy to find. Yet salt is essential to life. Basic physiological functions of the body require salt (sodium chloride). Furthermore, salt was a precious commodity to the people who were present when Jesus spoke these words. Salt was so valuable in biblical times that it was used as salary. In fact, Roman soldiers were often paid in salt. This is where we get the expression, “He’s worth his salt.” The implication here is that followers of Christ may be common, but they are valuable.

### OBSERVATION:

**Read Genesis 1:25-27 then complete the following statement.**

“So God created man in \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Read Paul’s words to the followers of Christ in Ephesus in Ephesians 1:3-6 then complete the following.**

“In \_\_\_\_\_ He predestined us for adoption as \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ...”  
(verse 5)

Why were we chosen?

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With what are we blessed? (verses 3 and 6)

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**Read 1 John 3:1 and answer the following questions.**





# DAY 2

What are we called?

Two horizontal lines for writing.

What has been given to us (lavished on us) by the Father?

Two horizontal lines for writing.

## REFLECTION:

**Look back over the questions you just answered and the scriptures you just read, then complete the following questions.**

Why do you have value?

Two horizontal lines for writing.

Can you lose your value? Why or why not?

Two horizontal lines for writing.

## APPLICATION:

In what way(s) am I trying to find value outside of who I am in Christ?

Two horizontal lines for writing.





## DAY 2

In what way(s) do I measure someone else's worth outside of who they are in Christ?

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How does my perception of value impact personal ministry opportunities?

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### INSPIRATION:

What have you learned about God and His ways through the scriptures today? Specifically, how were you encouraged?

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Close by thinking on why you are valuable: You were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:25), you were chosen by Him, you were adopted as a son or as a daughter in love by the Creator of the universe. He chose to bless you with His glorious grace (Ephesians 1:3-6), and He has lavished you with His love and called you His child (1 John 3:1). This is why you have value. And it cannot be taken away because your value does not depend upon you, rather, it rests on the completed work of Christ on the cross. Confess the ways in which you are trying to find value outside of your identity in Christ, then thank Him that you "are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)





## DAY 3

**Begin by reading Matthew 5:13-16 once again.**

As followers of Christ we were adopted in love as His sons and daughters. We enjoy His love, grace, and His blessings because of what was accomplished by Jesus on the cross. We have value because of Who we belong to, not because of the talents we may or may not possess. So, followers of Christ are similar to salt in that they may be common, but they have value. Another property of salt is salt makes you thirsty. In other words, those around you should see in you something that they crave—they should see evidence of peace, hope, integrity, and joy in you when life is easy and when life is difficult.

### OBSERVATION:

**Read Colossians 4:5-6 and complete following questions.**

“Let your speech always be \_\_\_\_\_.”

Who are the “outsiders” Paul is referring to?

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**Read Paul’s words to the believers in Philippi in Philippians 4:11-13 then answer the following questions.**

What does Paul say he has learned in verse 11?

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What is the secret to content that Paul talks about? In other words, why is he content whether living in plenty or in want; when he is hungry or when he is satisfied?

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# DAY 3



**Read Jesus' words recorded in Matthew 6:25-34. The Gentiles mentioned in these verses represent those who do not believe in God or observe His ways.**

According to this passage of scripture, how are we as followers of Christ to live differently than those who do not know Him?

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## **REFLECTION:**

Why should we be careful to walk in wisdom with outsiders as Paul mentioned in Colossians 4?

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Why do you think our speech so important?

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Look back at questions #3 and #4. How might you demonstrate the secret to content to those around you? How might this secret make others thirsty for God?

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Look back at question #5. How might this distinction make those around you thirsty for God?

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## DAY 3

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Who made you thirsty for God when you were an outsider? Describe what you saw in this person that made you want what they had.

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### APPLICATION:

Does your speech make outsiders thirsty? How so? If not, what needs to change so that your words more rightly reflect what you profess to believe?

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Do others see evidence of content in you regardless of your circumstances? If not, how can you learn Paul's "secret" for content?

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Are you anxious or can you rest in God's provision? What are you anxious about?

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### INSPIRATION:

What have you learned about God and His ways through the scriptures today?

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## DAY 3

Why can you rest in Him no matter what?

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Take a few moments to thank the Lord for His promised provision and for the love and value He gives freely to His children. Thank Him for the strength He gives to sustain us through times of ease and times of difficulty. Ask Him to help you rest in His goodness and faithfulness, and to continue to sanctify your speech and build up your faith so that you may rightly reflect His character to those around you.





## DAY 4

Followers of Christ are “salty” because they have value that is not dependent upon the extraordinary qualities they may or may not have, but rather on the extraordinary God to whom they belong. And followers of Christ are to be “salty” in that they live in such a way as to make those around them thirsty for our extraordinary God.

Another property of salt is salt preserves. At the time Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, salt was primarily used as a preservative to slow down the decay of meat. The salt had to be rubbed into the meat in order to act as a preservative. This provides significant imagery for believers. We are the salt, and the meat represents the world—“the world” meaning not only the people who do not follow God, but also the mindset contrary to God and His ways that is pervasive in our culture. In other words, one of the primary purposes of followers of Christ is to push back on, or resist, the darkness that results from a sinful, worldly mindset. It should go without saying that in order for believers to influence the world, they must have contact with the world; however, there is a tendency within the Christian community to move from one Christian circle to another while avoiding contact with unbelievers. This extreme is not God’s plan for His followers.

### OBSERVATION:

**Read Jesus’ words recorded in Matthew 28:19-20, then complete the following questions.**

Jesus tells His disciples to do four things in this passage. Fill in the blanks below and take note of what Jesus commands.

“ \_\_\_\_\_ therefore and \_\_\_\_\_ of all nations,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am  
 with you always, even to the end of the age.”

**Read Jesus’ words as He prays to God the Father on behalf of His followers in John 17:13-18.**

Look at verse 18. Who is Jesus sending into the world?

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## DAY 4

What does He ask of His Father in verse 15?

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### REFLECTION:

Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 28:19-20 that believers are to go, make disciples, baptize and teach others to observe His teachings. He also states in His prayer in John 17:16 that His followers are not of this world, even as He is not.

What does it mean to not be of the world, but to go into the world to make disciples and teach others about Jesus?

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### **Review Colossians 4:5.**

How do Paul's words confirm that followers of Christ are to come in contact with the world?

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In what ways have you observed Christians avoiding unbelievers to an unhealthy extreme? Why is this a temptation?

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## DAY 4

### APPLICATION:

In what ways do you push back on the darkness of our culture? Be specific.

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How can you “go” into your world and teach others to observe Jesus and His teaching? What does this look like on a daily basis?

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When you think of a person who is in the world but not of the world—one whose words and actions are resisting the effects of decay in his or her circle of influence—who comes to mind and why?

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### INSPIRATION:

What have you learned about God and His ways through the scriptures today? Specifically, how were you encouraged?

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Spend a few moments talking with the Lord about how you can be an influencer in your world for His purposes and for His glory. Thank Jesus for praying on your behalf that you will be protected from the enemy as you push back on the effects of sin in the world and follow Him. Then thank Him for sending those who taught you and disciplined you in the truth of God’s word.





## DAY 5

Salt was primarily used as a preservative when the words, “You are the salt of the earth”, were spoken by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Salt slows the decay of meat when rubbed into it. Similarly, followers of Christ are to resist the spread of decay in the world by influencing those around them with the good news of the gospel. It is clear through the scriptures that Christians are to be in the world while not conforming to it. One extreme within the Christian community is an avoidance of going into the world at all. Another extreme is an attempt to look as much like the world as possible. Neither extreme is God’s plan for His followers. Scripture is clear that believers should be distinct from the world while going into the world.

### OBSERVATION:

**Read Paul’s words to believers in Romans 12:2 then complete the following statement.**

“Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ to this world, but be \_\_\_\_\_  
by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your mind...”

**Read Ephesians 5:1-2**

Who does Paul tell us to imitate? And how are we to walk?

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**Read Colossians 3:1-17.**

On what are the minds of believers to be set? On what are the minds of believers not to be set?

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# DAY 5

What are followers of Christ instructed to put to death? (verse 5)

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Write down verse 9 below.

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What are we to put off? (verse 9) What are we to put on? (verse 12)

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Why are we told to forgive? (verse 13)

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What is to “dwell in you richly”? (verse 16)

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## DAY 5

How are we to do everything? (verse 17)

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### **REFLECTION:**

Paul instructs believers to be renewed in Romans 12 and in Colossians 3. Specifically, what is to be renewed? How?

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Practically, what does it mean to seek the things that are above and to set your mind on them?

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Review the questions above. How are followers of Christ to be distinct from the world while living in it? Be specific.

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### **APPLICATION:**

Which of the distinctions that you listed in question #11 do you find most difficult?

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## DAY 5

Are you more prone to avoid unbelievers or are you more tempted to look as much like an unbeliever as possible? Why?

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### Read Matthew 5:13.

When Christians avoid the world, or when Christians “go undercover”, they lose their “saltiness”. They do not lose their salvation; rather, they lose their effectiveness. Neither extreme is effective in preserving. In Biblical times, salt was mainly collected from the Dead Sea and was crystallized along with other chemicals. The other chemicals would have to be removed from the salt. Once the salt was refined, the other chemicals became a useless white residue. The residue still resembled salt; however, it was not effective in preserving, so it was thrown out onto the roads and trampled underfoot. This process sheds light on Jesus’ words in verse 13, “...but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.” Similarly, when a believer is not willing to be sent into world to make disciples, or when a believer is not living what he or she professes to believe, he is not carrying out the purpose of preserving. And our world desperately needs to be preserved from the pervasiveness of sin.

### INSPIRATION:

In what way(s) have you been convicted through the scriptures today? In what way(s) have you been encouraged?

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“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever.” (Galatians 1:3-5) Spend a few moments thanking God the Father for preserving your life for eternity and for delivering you from this present evil age through His son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask Him to use you as a “salty” Christian in your world.





## DAY 6

Followers of Christ are called to be “salty”. We are to be “salty” in that we are distinct from the world while living in the world. We are to push back on the decay of sin in the world. We are to live in such a way that makes others thirsty for the goodness of God. Followers of Christ are free to be common because they belong to an extraordinary God. And because they belong to the King of the Universe, they have value and identity that cannot be taken away. One more property of salt is salt dissolves. Salt is meant to be used up. It serves no purpose if it remains in a saltshaker. Similarly, one of the functions of believers in the world is to be “used up” for the furthering of God’s kingdom. We are to be doing the hard work of preserving through sharing the gospel and making disciples.

### OBSERVATION:

Paul understood that he was called to be “used up” to further God’s kingdom. Read Paul’s words to the believers in Philippi in Philippians 2:14-17 and 3:7-11, then complete the following.

“Even if I am to be \_\_\_\_\_ as a drink

offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with

you all.” (verse 2:17)

(A drink offering included wine being poured onto an animal sacrifice while it burned. The drink offering would vaporize due to the heat, resulting in a pleasant aroma.)

What does Paul count as loss compared to knowing Jesus Christ? (verse 3:8)

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He has suffered the loss of all things in order that he may gain what? (verses 3:8-10)

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**There is no greater example of being “poured out” for the kingdom of God than our Lord Jesus Christ. Read Paul’s words about Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11, then complete the following statements.**





## DAY 6

Jesus “made Himself \_\_\_\_\_.”

He took on the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to the point of death on a cross. (verse 8)

According to verse 5, what are we to do?

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### REFLECTION:

Look back at question #1. Why do you think Paul compared himself to a drink offering?

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Think of someone you know who is willing to be “poured out” for the sake of Christ. In what way(s) has he or she demonstrated a willingness to be used up for the kingdom of God?

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### APPLICATION:

**Paul instructs believers to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus (NIV) in Philippians 2:5. Think about your relationships and spheres of influence.**





## DAY 6

How can you have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, who made Himself nothing, took on the form of a servant, and who humbled Himself? Be specific.

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### **INSPIRATION:**

Jesus not only demonstrated what it means to be “used up” for the kingdom of God, He also demonstrated the other properties of salt that have been studied. Think through each property and write down how Jesus willingly lived out each characteristic.

Salt is common. (Jesus is God and therefore supernatural and not at all common. But think about how He came to earth and how He lived out His purpose.

#### **Salt has value.**

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#### **Salt makes you thirsty.**

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#### **Salt preserves.**

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Close by meditating on the extraordinary love that God lavished on us by sending His Son to be poured out for our salvation. Ask Him for the power and willingness to be used up for His name’s sake.





## DAY 7

### Begin by reading Matthew 5:14-16.

Jesus uses two metaphors—salt and light—to illustrate the ways in which His disciples are to influence the world around them. It is important to note that Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world.” The phrases “of the earth” and “of the world” are significant because up to this point in history God has primarily revealed Himself to and through the nation of Israel. Jesus is hinting to the disciples that they will eventually take His truth to the nations. The way in which Jesus talks about light in verses 14-16 gives insight into the role followers of Christ are to have in the world.

### OBSERVATION:

Jesus uses two analogies to illustrate His intent for believers in verses 14 and 15. They are compared to:

A \_\_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_\_\_.

A \_\_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_\_\_, rather than a \_\_\_\_\_ under a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Read Philippians 2:14-15.

In the midst of whom are believers to shine?

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Paul gives a few specific ways in which Christians are to shine. What are they?

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### Read Romans 1:16 and write it below.

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## DAY 7

Followers of Christ are compared to a city on a hill rather than a city in a valley where the lights can be concealed. Believers are also compared to a lamp on a stand rather than a lamp under a basket where the light will be hidden. Simply put, faith in God should be visible in the lives of believers. Others should be able to clearly see evidence of the faith we profess to believe.

### REFLECTION:

Think back to salt that has lost its saltiness. How is a believer who conceals what they believe similar to the “un-salty salt”?

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In what ways are Christians in our culture ashamed of the gospel? How does this hinder their roles as salt and light in the world?

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### **Read Matthew 5:16.**

We know from Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are not saved by our good works, so why are we to let others see our good works according to Matthew 5:16?

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What is a wrong motive for letting others see our good works? Read Matthew 6:1 and 6:5-6 to help you with your answer.

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## DAY 7

### APPLICATION:

**Read Paul's words in Galatians 1:10 then answer the following question.**

How can seeking the approval of man conceal your light?

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Think about the ways in which God has gifted you. How can you use the gifts He has given you to be a light and glorify your Father in heaven?

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In what other way(s) are you a light in the midst of your generation?

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Within which circumstances are you tempted to be an "undercover" Christian? Why do you think that is?

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### INSPIRATION:

The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers (Hebrews 2:11). He is not ashamed to call us His brothers because we have been made righteous through His death on a cross. Ask Him for forgiveness if you have been ashamed of the gospel, which "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes". Thank Him that because of the gospel, He bore your shame.

Close by asking God to give you the courage to let your light shine before men.





## DAY 8

Evidence of faith in God should be visible in the lives of believers. Followers of Christ are compared to a city on a hill in the Sermon on the Mount because light is to be seen even at a distance. Believers are also compared to a lamp on a stand in contrast to a lamp placed under a basket. It is significant that Jesus compares His followers to a lamp. In biblical times, lamps were made out of clay and resembled teapots. (See image below.) The lamps were filled with oil and a wick was placed with one end in the oil. Although the lamp shone when the wick was lit, the oil in the lamp was the source of light. The lamp was just the container in which the source of light was held. The lamp alone could not provide light. In the same way, followers of Christ are not the source of light, but the “lamp” in which it is held.



### OBSERVATION:

**Read John 8:12 then complete the following.**

Who is the light?

“Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ Me will not walk in \_\_\_\_\_,

but will have the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

**It can be helpful to see the impact of a truth by looking at the opposite. Write the opposite of the verse above.**

Whoever does not \_\_\_\_\_ Me will not walk in \_\_\_\_\_,

but will walk in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Read John 3:16-19.**

How does John 3:19 confirm the statement you wrote above in question #3?

What do unbelievers love according to Jesus’ words? Why?





## DAY 8

**Read John 1:1-4 and 9-10.**

What is Jesus called in verses 1-2?

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What does the True Light do for the people in the world according to verse 9?

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**Look up Psalm 19:7-8. The author of Psalm 19, David, is referring to the written word in his day when he uses the phrases “the law of the LORD”, “the testimony of the LORD”, etc.**

What does he say the word of God does at the end of verse 8?

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How is this consistent with John’s words in John 1?

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**Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 then answer the following questions.**





## DAY 8

What are we to proclaim? What are we to not proclaim? (verse 5)

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### REFLECTION:

**Refer to 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 for the following questions.**

Look closely at verse 6 and 7. What is the treasure that we possess?

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What are we (followers of Christ) called in verse 7? To whom does the power belong? How is this consistent with the ideas of followers of Christ being “lamps”?

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### APPLICATION:

In what ways can you be a lamp this week?

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In what ways can you be a lamp when you go back home?

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## DAY 8

### INSPIRATION:

How has the Word of God “enlightened your eyes” this week? Be specific.

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John 1:5 states, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Have you witnessed evidence of this truth? How so?

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Close today with words of thanksgiving for the Word who was with God and who was God who came into the darkness of the world to bring us life and light. Thank Him that you have the treasure of the knowledge of the glory of God through Jesus Christ. Ask Him to shine through you into the darkness for His name’s sake.





## DAY 9

As followers of Christ, we are to be the light of the world in that the faith we profess must be visible to those around us. We are to be the light of the world in that we are like the lamps of the Bible—we are not the source of light, but we to live in such a way as to point others to the Light, Jesus Christ. And lastly, believers are called to be the light of the world in that we are to introduce those who are in darkness to the Light, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### OBSERVATION:

What is one way in which you can introduce light into the darkness of your generation according to Philippians 2:14-15?

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**Read 1 John 2:9-11 then answer the following questions.**

According to these verses, what is an outward sign of one who walks in the darkness?

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What is one way in which you can introduce light into the darkness of your generation according to these words of John?

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### REFLECTION:

It is important for those who have been saved by grace into God's kingdom to stay mindful of the grace by which they have been saved. Believers are not called to only expose dark deeds, but to introduce those who are in the darkness to the one who is Light and Life.

**Read Paul's words to the believers in Colossae in Colossians 1:11-14.**





## DAY 9

Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light?

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How did you “get a transfer” into the Kingdom of God?

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**Read Paul’s words to the believers in Ephesus in Ephesians 5:8-11.**

What is Paul careful to remind the believers in Ephesus? (beginning of verse 8)

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**Paul gives an account of his conversion in Acts 26:12-18. Read this text then answer the following questions.**

Look closely at Jesus’ words to Paul in verses 17-18. Why does Jesus send Paul to the Gentiles? Jesus saved Paul out of the domain of darkness and transferred Paul to His kingdom so that many would have their eyes opened and turn from darkness to light. God certainly used Paul to expose evil things done in the darkness and Paul encouraged believers to do the same (Ephesians 5:11); however, his ultimate goal was to introduce those who walked in darkness to the hope found in Jesus. If you have believed on Jesus for salvation, you also have been delivered from darkness by His power and His grace. And as the “light of the world”, you have a responsibility to shine in such a way as to humbly point others to the Light who rescued you from the darkness in which you once walked (Ephesians 5:8).

What is the danger of exposing the dark deeds of others without the over-arching goal of introducing the one in the darkness to Christ?

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## DAY 9

### APPLICATION:

You read in 1 John 2:9 that whoever hates his brother is not living in the light. These words are similar to Jesus' words in Mark 12:28-31, "And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

How can you practically love your neighbor as yourself this week? At home? At school?

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Review 1 John 2:9-11. Is there a "brother" with whom you need to make things right? If yes, how so?

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In light of Matthew 5:13-16, what is the greatest possible way to love your neighbor? In other words, if "your neighbor" (brother, friend, co-worker, etc) lives in darkness as you once did, what is the most loving thing you could do for him or her?

### INSPIRATION:

What have you learned about God and His ways through the scriptures today?

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## DAY 9

In Luke 1:78-79, Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, quotes the words of the prophet Isaiah who referred to Jesus as “the sunrise”. He says this, “...because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Take a few moments to thank the Lord Jesus for visiting you from on high when you lived in darkness, to rescue you from the darkness and from death, and to guide your feet into the way of peace. Ask Him to empower you to love your neighbor enough to not only expose the darkness, but to be a “lamp” who humbly introduces those in the darkness to the glorious light of the gospel.





# DAY 10

**Begin by reading Matthew 5:13-16 once more.**

## REVIEW:

**Complete the chart below using the previous devotionals.**

<b>Characteristics of Salt</b>	<b>How I am to be “Salty”</b>
Salt is common.	<i>God uses common people to accomplish His purposes. I do not have to be extraordinary to be saved by Him or to be used by Him. I am a part of His story because of His grace and not because of my abilities.</i>
Salt is...	





## DAY 10

Look back at your answer to the first question of Day 1, “Why do you think Jesus refers to His followers as salt?” Now answer this question again.

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How will you be intentionally “salty” when you get back home? Be specific.

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What do you find most challenging about being salty? Why?

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Write down 3 of the ways in which we are called to be the light of the world:

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Look at Matthew 5:16. What is to be our motive to shine?

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## DAY 10

What typically motivates someone to shine? How can wrong motives hinder your role as “light”?

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What do you find most challenging about being the light of the world?

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The functions of salt and light are complementary. The only way to stop the decay of sin in the world is to spread the light of the gospel. And the only way someone’s life can be preserved for eternity is for he or she to be exposed to the Light who is Jesus Christ. Whether on a mission trip in another part of the world or in your home, be “used up” on mission with God to make His name known!

How has God gifted you? How might God use these gifts to be salt and light in your circles of influence?

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What are your weaknesses? How might God use your weaknesses to be salt and light in your circles of influence?

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## DAY 10

What have you learned about God this week? How will this reshape your perspective?

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Close by thinking about how the Lord has enlightened your eyes this week. Thank Him for being your Light and ask Him to “write” these truths on your heart so that they are not forgotten.

