



JOURNEY GROUPS

OCT 19 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- Remember that one of our main roles is to host our people well. We want to create a space for people to ask difficult questions, feel comfortable being vulnerable, and to feel safe. Keep thinking of ways that you can do that in your space and in the way you lead the conversation.
- Speaking of leading the conversation, remember that our goal is to facilitate conversation and get people engaged. Don't be afraid to call on people, or ask follow up questions that take things beyond a surface answer. The goal is growth, so let's keep pressing into that!
- Also, if your group really goes deep for a week and challenges one another in a certain area, don't forget to follow up on that the next week to see how everyone did/is doing!
- As you've been doing this now for a little while, what is something you need from me? How can I better support you?
- There are many ways to serve as a group this fall through Trunk or Treat, collecting toiletries/clothes for Mexicali, or serving with Advice and Aid Pregnancy Center, Cornerstone Mission, or Church on the Street. Let us know how we can help you in this!

SHARE

Ice Breaker Questions (use whichever questions you want):

- Which of the “useless things” examples (empty pen, broken stove, no Wi-Fi, soaked matches, etc.) is most relatable to you — and why?
- Can you think of something in your life that used to work but doesn't anymore? How did that make you feel?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "The Sermon on the Mount"

1. Start by having someone in the group read Matthew 5:13-16.
2. Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world."
What's significant about Him stating this as identity, not a command?
3. What do salt and light represent in the cultural and historical context of Jesus' day?
4. Why do you think Jesus used everyday household images to describe disciples?
5. What happens when salt loses its saltiness, or light is hidden, according to this passage?
6. How do these metaphors connect back to the Beatitudes (**Matthew 5:1-12**)?
7. How does this teaching challenge the assumption that faith is merely private or personal?
8. When in your life have you most felt like you were living out your identity as salt and light? What was happening?
9. In what areas of your life is it easy to "hide your light" or "lose your saltiness"?
10. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." How does it change your perspective to think that He applies a title to you that He also applies to Himself (**John 8:12**)?
11. How does understanding your union with Christ (rather than striving) change the way you view mission and influence?
12. Which of the three "fear-based" approaches—converting, condemning, consuming culture—do you most tend to lean toward, and why?
13. What might "engaging culture with gospel courage" look like in your daily life?
14. How can the church lose its saltiness in our culture today? What does that look like practically?
15. What are some subtle ways Christians might "hide their light" without realizing it?

16. What's one area of brokenness or darkness in your workplace, neighborhood, or community that desperately needs salt and light?
17. How can living as salt and light be both countercultural and compelling at the same time?
18. What's the difference between shining our light to draw attention to ourselves versus pointing people to glorify the Father (v. 16)?
19. How does the gospel free us from trying to earn influence and instead empowers us to live out our identity?
20. What small, faithful practices could increase your "saltiness" and "light" in our ordinary rhythms (home, work, relationships)?
21. How can we, as a group, support one another in being a "city on a hill" together rather than isolated lamps?
22. Who is one person or place God might be calling you to influence more intentionally this week?
23. What's one step you can take to live out your identity as salt and light in the coming days?

PRAYER

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