



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Ask your group, "What food are you most likely add salt? Why do you add the salt?" Whether you are sometimes referred to as "salty" or like to add salt to your food, being salty (in a good way) is the focus of our new sermon series. Discuss some of the historical facts about salt that pastor shared with us during the message. Ask, "Which facts did you find interesting?"

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Ask, "How many times does the Bible mention salt?" (Pastor mentioned this number in the message. You can also use a Bible app to search for the word salt.) **Read Leviticus 2:13.** The grain offering mentioned in this verse required salt. The purpose of this offering was to demonstrate how God provided for the needs of His people. Salt was extremely expensive. Its value was represented by its purifying and preserving qualities. Ask, "How do we show our gratefulness to God today? What do we give to God for providing for our needs?"

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Ezekiel 16:4 and 43:22-24. Salt was also to be put on burnt offerings. Pastor mentioned that the purpose of this part of the sacrifice was to represent God preserving of their relationship with Him. The sacrifice was also meant to purify God's people from their sins. Ask, "How are we purified from our sins since Jesus established the New Covenant? How is our relationship with Christ preserved today?"

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Numbers 18:19 and 2 Chronicles 13:5. Salt was a reminder of the covenant God had made with His people. It was literally a Covenant of Salt. The covenant (agreement between two parties) represented God's promise to restore a relationship with His creation. The purifying and preserving effect of salt is a reminder that God's promise is unchangeable. Jesus would be the ultimate fulfilment of this promise made by God. Jesus was completely pure and sinless. He gave His life as a sacrifice for us so that we could be cleansed from all our sin and have an eternal relationship with God. Discuss how the purity of Jesus differs from our own purity. Ask, "Why did Jesus need to be sinless to accomplish our salvation? Discuss the power of God's promises made and kept. Ask, "How does it make you feel to know that God's promise is unchangeable? How can this reality help us live for God every day?"

DOING THE WORD

Read Matthew 5:13. This verse will become the centerpiece of this series as we move forward. Ask, "How does this week's message give us a deeper understanding of Jesus' words in this verse?" Discuss what it means to be "the salt of the earth." Ask, "How will you '**Be Salty**' this week? What will you do this week to offer the valuable message of hope in Christ to those you encounter?" Discuss some ways you can be the preserving influence of Christ in your home, at work, and in our community. Encourage your group to read Matthew 5:13 each day this week and start to memorize it so we can become what it says.