



Small Group Questions | “Summer on the Mount”
Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, Psalm 34:8
Week 2 | June 19, 2022

1. ICEBREAKER: I know Father’s Day can evoke mixed feelings based on our various backgrounds/relationships with our earthly fathers. If yours was/is a blessing, what did they do that practically pointed you to Jesus?
2. We talked about how one of the many things salt does is slow decay in a culture or city.
 - a. In what ways could this understanding from v. 13 be encouraging to believers living in darker spiritual climates?
 - b. What might this *practically* look like in our area? You might consider some of the cultural aspects of living in the PNW that can be difficult for some Jesus followers (city/local agendas, school board decisions, political pressure/arguments. Etc.) – Be aware that in several of these conversations there isn’t *one* way Christians can believe.
3. Read Psalm 34:8.
 - a. We’re *commanded* (not suggested) to taste and see that the Lord is good. That verse embodies both images from this week’s passage in the SOTM (salt and light).
 - i. In what ways have you experienced the Lord’s goodness in your own life?
 - ii. How might the discipline of regularly remembering these things help us trust God more fully?
4. Can someone describe the two ways salt could lose its saltiness that we discussed?
 - a. *Reminder: Salt loses its saltiness when it’s with too much salt*
 - b. *Salt loses its saltiness when it’s watered down and isolated.*
 - c. If you had to choose one, which one do you see the most evidence of in your own life? Or which way might you be tempted to lean?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12.
 - a. How do these verses encourage us to live out this week’s bottom line, “Followers of Jesus are called to be world changers”?
 - b. In what ways could you practically change the world this week, especially in small ways?
6. *Leader Tip: If your group met last week and already discussed this question, use this time as a quick check in and encouragement. If you didn’t meet last week, just ask this question like normal.* New sermon series are often a chance to consider some time-stamped spiritual goals. What would you like to see change/improve/develop in your life with Christ over the next 12 weeks?

- a. Set some reminders as a group to check in on each other a few weeks from now on how you're doing. Remember, we're not doing these things to *gain* God's love, but because we already have it!

*****Spend time in prayer together as a group in a different way than you have recently.*****