

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Source Code

Description: During a grueling, snow-covered hike with his friends, 13 year-old Bill Gates imagined a simple, *source code* for the one computer that was currently on loan to his middle school. The simplicity of the code allowed him to remember it for years until he was finally able to implement it, and the power of the code ended up creating a multi-billion dollar company known as Microsoft.

In this series, Source Code, we are studying Jesus' most famous collection of teachings found in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. The Sermon on the Mount, in its own simplicity and power has shaped the life of every follower of Jesus for the last 2,000 years. Let's take a closer look and see what Jesus taught.

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Living Wisdom

Main Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Supporting Texts: Romans 1:22, 1 Corinthians 1:18-19, Colossians 4:6, Ephesians 5:15

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Message Outline:

In week four, we talked about what Jesus means when he calls us to be the salt of the earth.

Question: What does Jesus mean by *salt losing its saltiness*?

The Greek word for saltiness here in Matthew 5:13 is *mōrainō*, which is only used two other times in the new testament (Romans 1:22, 1 Corinthians 1:18-19) in which it is used to talk about foolishness. To synthesize, what Jesus is saying is that if you do not live under the wisdom of God, but instead the foolishness of man you will lose your witness as my disciples. The essence of being my followers (or in other words the saltiness of salt), is to live by my wisdom.

Key thought: We should be flavoring the world with the wisdom of God.

Question: What are some common ways that we lose our saltiness?

1. We retaliate and seek vengeance.
2. We value being right over relationship.
3. We fight against self-awareness.

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Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week's message:

1. What comes to mind when you hear Jesus urging his followers to be “salt of the earth”?
2. Did studying the use of *mōrainō* elsewhere in the new testament illuminate Jesus' words in Matthew 5?
3. What are some ways we as followers of Christ can be wise where the world is foolish? (you can discuss macro issues, but also spend a second on tangible, personal ways too)
4. Where have you seen followers of Christ—or the Church—be foolish where the world is also foolish? What was the result?
5. Do you ever find it hard to know where the line is between foolishness and the wisdom of God?
6. Pastor Jason touched on a few ways that we can lose our saltiness. Which of those resonated most with you? What would you add to the list?

General questions:

7. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
8. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
9. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?

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10. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?