

**Way of Life Study - Week 2**  
**January 2017**

**The WayPoint:** Salt and light: my identity in a dark and decaying world.

**Essential Verse:** You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

Matthew 5:13

**Opening Prayer:** Use this prayer or open with a prayer of your own.

*Lord, we love You, and we thank You for this group You have brought together. Help each of us to grow in our relationship with You and with one another. We ask You to guide our time together and to help us see our need for Jesus every day. Amen.*

**Get Conversation Started:**

*What stood out to you from your Bible reading and the weekend message this past week?*

*Share a memory of a time when the electricity went out in your home.*

**Defining Terms:**

**Salt** - Today salt is found on a majority of dining tables, it seasons most of the things we cook, and it is inexpensive. This was not the case in the world in which Jesus lived. At that time, salt was very valuable, and it was used for more than just seasoning. One of salt's main functions was to preserve food in a refrigeratorless world. Without salt, food would spoil and decay.

**Bible Study Focus:**

*Focus on the following passages from the Reading Plan. Ask for volunteers to read the passages, while the rest of the group follows along. Then, discuss the biblical truths below.*

**Read Matthew 5:13-16.** How do Christ-followers preserve and flavor the world around us?

**Read Matthew 5:17-20.** In this passage, Jesus instructs against hiding our light under a basket. What reasons might we have for wanting to hide our lights?

What is the goal of our good deeds being seen, and how should that motivate us?

**Read Philemon 1:4-7.** What gave Paul reason to thank God? What was Paul's prayer for Philemon?

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**This WayPoint:** Salt and light: my identity in a dark and decaying world.

Describe someone you know who is living out Jesus' call to be salt and light.

What sets them apart and what effect do they have on those around them?

What sets you apart, and what effect are you having on the world around you?

**Your Concerns:**

*What are your biggest concerns for the week ahead?*

**God Moments:**

*Where have you seen God at work in, through, or around you in the previous week?*

**Prayer:**

Lift up the concerns shared, and ask God to guide us to love and serve Him and others, so that He may be praised in all things.