



Small Group Study Guide for February 12, 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Jesus calls His disciples to be the salt and light of the earth. We do not shine with our own light, but we reflect the brightness and goodness of God in the way we live our lives. We do this with joy because Jesus fulfilled the law perfectly for us.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. When was the last time you saw or visited mountains?
2. What is your favorite book of the Bible and why?

In the Word: Read Matthew 5:13-20

3. As Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes, He gives His disciples some analogies for what it is like for them to be in the Kingdom of God. What are the analogies that Jesus, the master Teacher, uses to describe His disciples (us)?
4. What are uses for salt – both in the ancient world and in our day?
5. If you have ever been to the mountains at night, you've seen a house or town up high on a hill that is so easy to spot. We don't use oil lamps like in Jesus' day, but we do put lights high up if we want them to illumine the whole room. Use your creative mind, and come up with a few other analogies of strategically placed light that convey the same idea that Jesus is trying to get across here.
6. Jesus refers to "the Law and the Prophets" when speaking of the Hebrew Bible – the Old Testament. The Law is the Torah – the books of Moses, and the Prophets are the other writings of the Old Testament, both about the prophets and written by the prophets. As Dr. Kloha pointed out last week, they would have been a collection of scrolls and not yet a book (*Biblia*) because books hadn't been invented yet. See if you can come up with a few things in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled.

7. What do you think Jesus' words in verse 18 say about Jesus' understanding of the Scriptures (and ours)? Look up **Mark 12:36**, **John 10:34-36**, and **Luke 24:44-47**. What does Jesus say about the Scriptures in these verses? How does Jesus understand the Scriptures (Old Testament) and what does that mean for us today and how we should regard them?

8. Jesus did what we could never do. Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets perfectly and completely. Why is that so comforting, especially in light of Jesus' words in verse 20?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

9. If we are salt, and we add flavor to the world, how do you see Christians adding 'flavor' to our world and society? How do we zest things up, make life wonderful, and spice things up a bit?

10. We are the light of the world, but we only reflect the light of Christ. The light shines in the darkness. How do we reflect the light of Christ?

11. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. How do we sometimes hide our light?

12. How do you think our church and school, and our home and families, can be visible, obvious, and elevated beacons of light and hope for the community around us?

Prayer: Thank God for the gift of the Scriptures, which are able to make us wise for salvation. Ask God to help us 'shake and shine' as salt and light in the world, by the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, so that we can be a city on a hill and welcome more and more disciples into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Next Week: Transfiguration Sunday is when Jesus' glory shone through and confirmed His mission as Messiah. Jesus continues to shine in our life! He is our Light!