

READ

Matthew 5:13-16

CONSIDER

As we start the year, we will be resuming the second part of our series on the Sermon on the Mount and devoting time to exploring the ways of Jesus and how He invited us into God's Kingdom. His teaching on being the salt and light challenges us to seriously consider how we are to live as His witnesses and how He chooses to work in the world. The good news is not merely information for us to mentally receive, but it is worked out as He reorients and shapes our interactions with one another in the spaces we inhabit. Even without the right words, our relationships with others speak volumes about how Jesus has redeemed us.

In a world of disrepair, our good works and actions shine brightly, illuminating who He is and drawing our attention and gratitude towards Him. Let us take this step together this upcoming year to be the church who boldly steps forward to impact the lives of others for His glory and resists any hindrance to being His salt and light in every dimension of who we are and what we do.

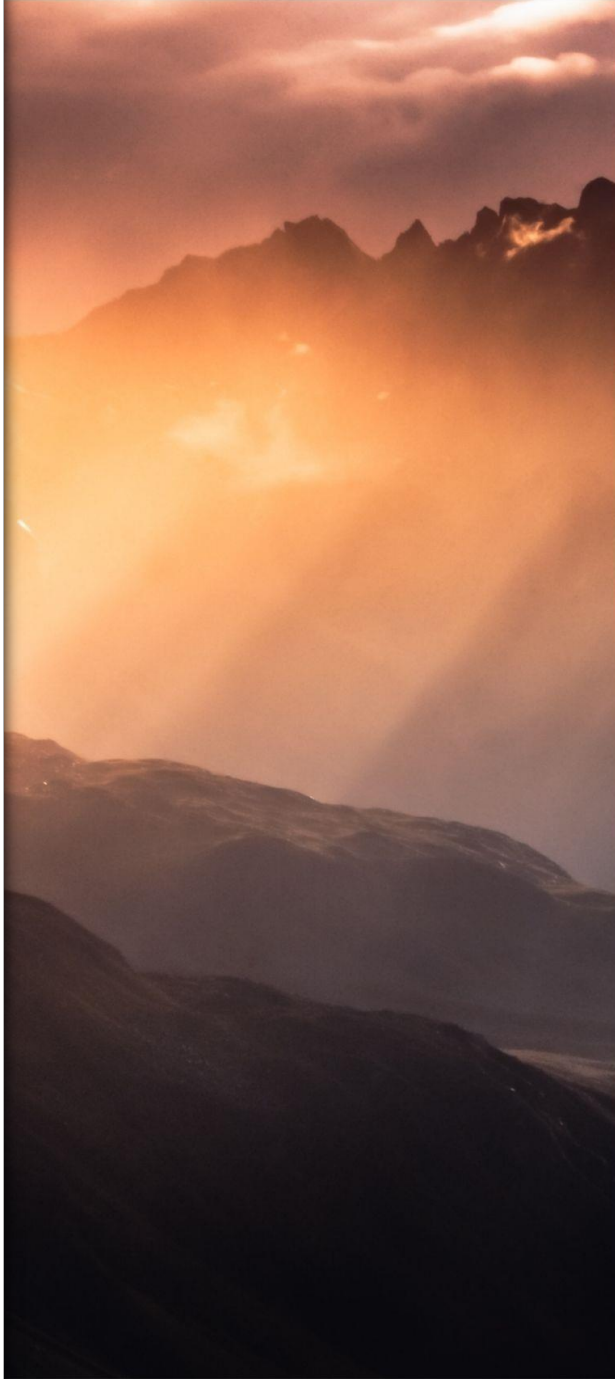
Looking forward to our time in God's Word together,

Pastor Jon Nip

PRAY

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world who has entered into our lives and circumstances to restore and reconcile us back to you. As we reflect on how you engaged the world, would we imitate and pattern ourselves to you in order to become your salt and light. We confess of the ways in which we have hindered our witness and we ask for the desire and strength to turn back to you to be formed to be your people, demonstrating your gospel through our works and interactions. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DIVING DEEPER



WEEK 1

SALT & LIGHT

MATTHEW

5:13-16

- **Review the beatitudes (5:3-10)** which are best understood as the values of the kingdom. What do they teach us about the way of Jesus?
- **Read v16.** This is the key verse for this section. **What** does this tell us about how we witness as the people of God? How is it connected to the Beatitudes?
- If the primary use of salt in the ancient world was to preserve food, how does this example help us understand how we bear witness to Christ?
- If the primary use of light is to cut out the darkness, how does this example help us understand how we bear witness to Christ?
- **Re-read v16.** How can your community group bear witness to the gospel of Christ as salt and light in the world? How can your group embrace the counter-cultural way of Jesus? What is one practical way you can live this out?