

## Discussion Guide

### Following Jesus: Show Christ

Matthew 5:1-16 – Singles Big Meeting – Covenant Life Church – October 26, 2010

**Goal:** Help your group to see that our lives are meant to be a disciple-making tool for use in Christ's kingdom and to consider how their lives specifically can be used for this purpose.

#### Read Matthew 5:1-16

#### Getting Started:

- What is the context of Jesus teaching on salt and light?
- How does Jesus' teaching before and after verses 13-16 inform our understanding of verses 13-16?

#### Point #1: We Are Salt

Read Matthew 5:13

- What are the two ways salt was used at the time of Jesus?
  - Preservative:
    - How do our lives as Christians preserve the earth?
  - Flavoring food:

Martin Lloyd-Jones, a British pastor from the mid 1900s, writes:

...life without Christianity [lacks flavor]. Does not the world today prove that? Look at the pleasure mania. Clearly people are finding life dull and boring, so they must be rushing out to this entertainment or that. But the Christian does not need these entertainments because he has a saviour in life—his Christian faith. Take Christianity out of life and the world, and what an insipid thing life becomes, especially when one gets old or is on one's deathbed. It is utterly tasteless, and men have to drug themselves in various ways because they feel their need of a saviour.

- How do we experience flavor in life in a way that is different than the world does?
- How do our actions and speech flavor the earth?

#### Point #2: We Are Light

Read Matthew 5:14-15; then read 1 John 1:4-9.

- How are we the light of the world?
- Read Braden said, "Christ is the light of the world. Through faith you are united with Christ. Therefore you are the light of the world." Explain this in your own words.
- How does being the light of the world affect the way we think of ourselves and live as Christians?
- Deitrich Bonhoeffer in *The Cost of Discipleship* says, "A community of Jesus which seeks to hide itself has ceased to follow Him." Do you agree? Why?

## ***Discussion Guide***

### **Apply and Pray**

- Braden's main point was that "we make disciples by showing Christ so that others might worship God." How does being salt and light relate to making disciples of Jesus?
- In what ways are you tempted to hide your light?
- How is God calling you to show Christ to the world around you?
- Take time to pray, giving people the opportunity to ask God to help them be salt and light. Pray that we would show Christ to the world around us.