



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

### USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

### The Big Idea

*We are different. We're called to make a difference.*

### Message Summary

As we leave the "this is who you are" part of the Sermon on the Mount and turn to the part that makes up the biggest part of Jesus' message - the "this is what you'll do" part - it's good to remember the words of James 1:21-22 (and I'm paraphrasing): *Accept the word and do the word. The 4 verses that we're studying this week are a pivot in the Sermon: Jesus shows us how fruitless it is to be something without actually then doing the things that are consistent with who we are. We are different. We're called to make a difference.*

### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- In the days when Jesus spoke these verses, salt and light were indispensable household commodities no matter how rich or poor those households may have been. Everyone needed the presence of salt and light. Compare and contrast that with how indispensable the church may or may not be in our culture today.
- When have you seen a Christian individual or group act as salt in the community or culture?
- What things make Christians less salty?
- What things prevent our light as Christians from being seen?
- Think of some ways in which you could shine more brightly in your workplace or community.
- Think of a social evil that you can learn more about and take a stand against—stopping human trafficking, feeding the hungry, adopting children who are orphaned. How can you act as salt in your area of influence?
- Who else might join you or who might you join in this effort?
- Is the light of your life shining like a 300-watt bulb? A 100-watt bulb? A night light? Why? How can Jesus help you shine brighter?