



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

“Salt and Light”

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: When have you experienced complete darkness or tasted completely bland food? How did it make you appreciate light and flavor?

Key Takeaways

1. Christianity is Not a Hobby

- You are either all in or you're not
- You cannot be salt one day and sugar the next
- Your faith is a lifestyle, not a switch you turn on and off

2. The Central Question: What Are You Good For?

- Jesus isn't asking *if* you have influence; you do have influence.
- The question is: What kind of influence are you having?
- Are you leading people toward Christ or being a hindrance?

3. Understanding Salt

Salt in the ancient world was used for:

- Flavoring (adding value to life)
- Preserving (maintaining moral standards)
- Healing (bringing restoration)
- Purifying (representing holiness)
- Creating thirst (making others desire God)
- Making covenants (representing commitment)

Key Insight: Salt doesn't lose its taste, but it can be *contaminated* by other substances that reduce its effectiveness.

4. Understanding Light

Light is meant to:

- Guide and give direction
- Expose danger and warn
- Illuminate the path
- Create the right atmosphere
- Be seen, not hidden

Key Insight: We don't generate light; we reflect the light of Christ, like the moon reflects the sun.

5. Your Private Life Determines Your Public Impact

- "The light that shines the farthest shines the brightest at home."
- Your interior life must be strong enough to sustain outer attacks.
- You cannot publicly live what you're not privately practicing.

Discussion Questions

Self-Examination

1. On a scale of 1-10, how "salty" would you say your life is right now? What factors influenced your answer?
2. What "contaminants" might be reducing your effectiveness as salt in the world? (Examples: sin, worldly influences, guilt, distractions)
3. Pastor Robby mentioned that the biggest factor in pastor's kids leaving the faith is seeing parents act one way at church and differently at home. How does this challenge you about authenticity in your own life?

Influence & Impact

4. Think about your daily spheres of influence (work, neighborhood, family, hobbies). In which area is your light shining brightest? Where is it dimmest?
5. The sermon emphasized that God created unique works for each of us before we were born (Ephesians 2:10). How does understanding yourself as God's "masterpiece" or "poem" change how you view your purpose?

6. "The light shining through you should be brighter than the light shining on you." What does this statement mean to you? Where might you be seeking the spotlight instead of reflecting God's light?

Practical Living

7. The podcast mentioned that we often perform Christianity rather than live it consistently. What's the difference? Where do you struggle with this?
8. Pastor Robby said we should "weave the gospel into the things you love" (disc golf, fishing, video games, your profession, etc.). What are your passions, and how could you use them to create spiritual conversations?
9. Kandi emphasized normalizing confession and vulnerability. Why is it so hard to be honest about our struggles? How can this group create a safe space for that?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each person to:

- Identify what's contaminating their saltiness
- Live the same privately as they do publicly
- Discover and walk in the unique works God prepared for them