**Lesson One-Salt and Light in Our World**

Text

**Matthew 5:13-16**

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

**Overview**

Jesus used two simple objects to illustrate our role as Christians-salt and light. Both have unique qualities and fulfill important functions that should be demonstrated by Christians in the world today.

**Lesson Theme**

God has given us the privilege of representing Him. By understanding the basic functions of salt and light and by applying their attributes to our daily lives, we will be able to fulfill God's purpose for our lives and to bring others to the Lord.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of the lesson, each student should:

1. Know the basic purposes of salt and light.

2. Understand how salt and light relate to the Christian's responsibility to bring others to the Lord.

3. Choose to be a savory Christian who walks close enough to the Lord to reflect His light.

**Teaching Outline**

1. Salt
   1. Salt preserves.
   2. Salt purifies.
   3. Salt pleases.
   4. Salt prods.
2. Light
   1. Light attracts.
   2. Light repels.
   3. Light requires a source.
      1. God is light.
      2. The Bible is light.

**Scripture Reading**

PROVERBS 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life..

PSALM 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

1 TIMOTHY 6:20 ...keep that which is committed to thy trust...

1 TIMOTHY 5:22 ...neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

1 JOHN 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols...

Job 6:6 Can something tasteless be eaten without salt, Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

PROVERBS 25:11 Like apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances.

PROVERBS 15:23 A man has joy in an apt answer And how delightful is a timely word!

ISAIAH 50:4 The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.

MATTHEW 12:34 the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

PROVERBS 16:21-24 The wise in heart will be called understanding, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness. Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, But the discipline of fools is folly. The heart of the wise instructs his mouth And adds persuasiveness to his lips. Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

JOHN 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

JOHN 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

MATTHEW 5:16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

1 JOHN 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

MATTHEW 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

JOHN 3:21 But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

JAMES 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1 JOHN 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all

PSALM 27:1 The Lord, my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

Psalm 36:9 For with Him is the fountain of life; In His light we see light.

1 JOHN 1:7 if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

ACTS 26:13 At midday, 0 king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

PSALM 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

PSALM 119:130

The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

**Study Questions**

1. What are some of the basic purposes of salt?
2. How can a horse be prodded to drink water? And how does this relate to our role as salt?
3. What are the two sources of a Christian's light?
4. Will everyone's response to the light be positive? \_
5. Who is in your circle of influence that needs you to be a "salty" Christian who reflects God's light?
6. Using the basic functions of salt as described in this lesson as indicators, on a scale of one to ten, how salty of a Christian are you?
7. What are some steps of action you can take to fulfill the basic purposes of salt this week?
8. Are you faithfully reading, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word? How can you incorporate these disciplines into your daily life?

**Memory Verse**

MATTHEW 5:13-14

13You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden