

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)**Learning Goals:** Students should be able to associate the characteristics of salt and light to the actions and attitudes they are called to display as followers of Jesus.**Opening Question:** How much impact do you think one regular person can make for the kingdom?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Living Salty:

- Where would you get salt? (shores of the Dead Sea) - image of the dead sea
- Role of salt in Jesus' day
 - a. sign of the covenant (Leviticus 2:13)
 - b. purified things (Exodus 30:35)
 - c. flavored things (Job 6:6)
 - d. preservative
 - e. necessary for life
 - f. connected to peace and friendship (Mark 9:50; Colossians 4:6)

Light It Up:

- 3 images:
 - a. city on a hill (whose lights are visible in the darkness)
 - b. a small terra-cotta oil lamp (which gives light in a dark room)
 - c. a metaphor for good works
- Symbolism of light in the ancient world
 - a. knowledge
 - b. truth
 - c. revelation
 - d. love

Connection to Mission:

- Being a "follower of Jesus" means being called into mission on behalf of God in the world
- "Salt" and "light" both evoke the impact a follower is to have on others
- "Salt" and light are not just about what we do, but who we are
 - Not about who we should be or will be one day, but who we are right now.
- Missio Dei (Mission of God):
 - "God's mission is to redeem a broken creation (as a result of sin and disobedience) through the life, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus, through the gift of the Spirit to God's people, in order to bring creation into its perfect order." (Scot McKnight)
- We are called to be a missional people
 - "To be missional means to be sent into the world; we do not expect people to come to us . . . A missional theology is not content with mission being a church-based work. Rather, it applies to the whole life of every believer. Every disciple is to be an agent of the kingdom of God, and every disciple is to carry the mission of God into every sphere of life. We are all missionaries sent into a non-Christian culture." (Alan Hirsch)

- Not all are called to be constant verbal evangelists, but we are all called to promote the gospel with our deeds, with our money, with our church, and with our words.

The Need To Be Faithful:

- Saltless salt is thrown away and covered lights are useless.
- If we damage the impact we already have, that impact may never be regained.
- God's judgment is real.

"Your actions are so loud, I can't hear a word you are saying."

"Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." - St. Francis of Assisi

Possible illustration:

Take students into a room with no windows and turn off all the lights (Dr. Norman's office, the SWS library, etc.). After giving their eyes about a minute to adjust to the dark, light a single match/candle to demonstrate how it only takes a little light to make a huge difference. Every student can have an impact on the world.

Lesson Summary /Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Missio Dei
- Missional