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# Family Devotion: Making a Difference

<b>PARENT PAGE</b> CHRIST LESSON 14	<b>MAKING A DIFFERENCE</b> (SERMON ON THE MOUNT: PART 1)	
	<b>Matthew 5:13–16, 43–48</b> BIBLICAL PASSAGE	<b>Matthew 5:16</b> MEMORY VERSE

Different cultures use different seasonings in preparing their food. Some like it spicy hot, while others like it bland. But nearly every culture uses salt as a main substance for seasoning. Some things just have to be salty, like potato chips and pretzels. There's nothing worse than popping something into your mouth that's supposed to be salty but instead tastes bland.

**Read Matthew 5:13-16.** Jesus used the Sermon on the Mount to set the stage for His teachings about the Kingdom of God. Everything Jesus taught in regards to the Kingdom ran contrary to what people knew and understood in their culture and religion. It is especially true today.

Jesus wanted to make it very clear to His disciples, and to those who had gathered that day, that they were to be

different from other people—in a sense, that they were to be ambassadors of God's Kingdom. They were to be salt (the savory spice of life) and light (a beam in the darkness). Basically, Jesus called His followers to stand out—not for the sake of merely being different, but for the sake of directing attention to God. Jesus calls us to that standard, as well.

You should be immediately identifiable as a follower of Christ. Our culture continues to slide into staggering levels of immorality. Your commitment to living by the Kingdom values set forth by Jesus should make you stand out as inherently different than the world around you. That really is what being salt and light is all about. And when you do this, people will see that you are different. And this difference will bring honor and glory to God the Father.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

First, a family member provides a bag of unsalted pretzels. (Peanuts could work, as well.) Each family member eats a pretzel. Next, the family discusses the question: **What is immediately noticeable about the food?** Most likely, someone will mention the lack of saltiness. Finally, the family discusses the question: **Why do certain foods just taste better with salt? What would eating be like with no salt? Pretty boring, right?**

### Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Matthew 5:13–16, and 43–48. Another family member reads the statement: **By God's grace, when others see and experience Christ lived out in us, God will ultimately receive the glory. We are**

called to be different, to bring a unique flavor to the world.

Next, the family discusses the question: **What do you think it means to be *salt* and *light* in the world we live in today?**

### **Transform . . .**

First, teenagers discuss the question: **What are some ways you can be salt and light in your world?** Then, the family discusses the question: **As a family, how can we bring more glory to God through our interactions with others?**

*Pray together that God would show you how to be salt and light. Pray that others would see the authenticity of your love through your good works and know God as a result.*

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