



# RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

**TITLE:** The Way of the Cross

**TEXT:** Matthew 5:13-16

**DATE:** January 17, 2021

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Matt Wilhelm

## COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Share a story about a time in your childhood when you broke a rule. What were the consequences?

## CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Green star indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- ★ 1. How does having the attitudes and living the behaviors of the beatitudes (Matthew 5:2-11) make people salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)?
2. Who is the "you" in the passage referring to? Who is Jesus speaking to?  
*He is speaking to his ordinary, unimportant and small group of disciples. They are believers and with them, he speaks to everyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus and follows him.*
3. What did salt and light do in Jesus' day? What needs preserving, flavoring, or to be exposed in our day?  
*Salt was a preservative, and gave flavor. Light exposed the darkness and helped to see. In talking about the needs of our day, resist the urge to let this conversation dominate the rest of your time together.*
4. What does it mean to be the salt and light?  
*Jesus is calling his followers to show God's character by their actions and attitudes.*
5. What actions can cause believers to "lose their saltiness" or "hide their light?" How do you lose your saltiness or hide your light? How does that hinder the spread of the Gospel?
6. Share how salty you are. Is your salt still in the shaker? Using the beatitudes as the criteria, how brightly is your light shining? (300 watt bulb, 100 watt light bulb, or a night light)? How can Jesus and the believers you closely connect with help you to be saltier and shine brighter?  
*Encourage your group members and don't let them be too hard on themselves. Oftentimes, our impact on others goes unnoticed to us. It could be a smile, a kind word, or a random gracious comment that speaks volumes to someone else. While discussing ways to shine brighter, seek to be as concrete as possible. Challenge your members to ask for that help/accountability this week.*

## FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Use the other resources on the Joyful Journey resource page to choose an application that aligns with what you are learning about God and about yourself.

*Have everyone in your group pull out their phones, download the Woodlands app and check out the "Joyful Journey" tab that will be updated weekly with exercises, questions and the week's memory verse. Find a way to take the Sunday sermon with you throughout the week.*