**

*We encourage you to take 10 minutes before your small group meeting to read through the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 5-7)*

*Opening Questions*

1. How do you think this sermon would have been received by Jesus’ original hearers? What would they have gone away thinking about Jesus? About discipleship?
2. When the story of our church building was written up in the Cloverdale Reporter, someone posted this comment under the online article: “*just what the world doesn’t need, another private clubhouse for believers.”* If you had the write the next comment, what would you say?

*Going Deeper*

Read Matthew 5:13-16

1. Jesus starts by telling his disciples that they are the salt of the earth.  
   1. What are the different functions of salt?
   2. What does this image teach us about the relationship between the church and its surrounding culture?
   3. Where have you seen the saltiness of the church in action?
2. John Stott suggests that being the salt of the earth means preserving culture from decay. Where do you see decay in our city right now? What might it look for our church to be salty in those places?
3. Take a moment to read verse 13 again. How exactly do believers go about losing their saltiness? What is the consequence?
4. The second image Jesus uses to describe his followers has to do with being light  
   1. What function does light have?
   2. How does this image build on our being the salt of the earth?
5. Think of your own life for a moment. Are there particular times/places where you feel tempted to hide your light? Why do you think this is?
6. What hope are we given in verse 16?

*Close in prayer (We encourage you spend time praying for the mission of our church)*