



RIDGEPOINT CHURCH • GROW GROUPS GUIDE

Salt, Light, and the Life You Were Made For

A Better Way

WEEK 2

MATTHEW 5:13-16

Brent Warkentin • August 30, 2026

LEADER PREPARATION

- **Thank you for investing in your Grow Group each week!** If you have questions, need help, or are looking for additional resources, visit our Grow Group Leader page: ridgepointwichita.com/growleaders
- **Looking for an easy icebreaker?** Grab the NOT JUST SUNDAYS card game we handed out. Try just a few cards each week—have everyone answer one card, or let people choose between two. It's a simple way to keep building relationships!
- **This discussion guide is exactly that—a guide.** Skip questions, add your own, spend longer on a verse, or adjust it to fit your group. You know your group best! And if you have feedback on these guides, please let us know.

Opening (10 min)

OPENING QUESTION

Think of something in your life that used to have real flavor or impact—a hobby, a habit, a relationship—but has gone flat or diluted over time. What changed?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week kicks off Matthew 5:13–16, where Jesus makes two bold declarations: "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world." Pastor Brent explained that this is pure identity, a gift given at salvation, not an achievement to earn. Salt preserves food and delays decay; in the same way, believers are called to preserve righteousness in a decaying world, make life taste better through gracious words, and create a thirst in others for Jesus. But Jesus also gives two warnings: don't lose your saltiness, and don't hide your light. Losing saltiness doesn't mean losing salvation; it means drifting from your identity so far that your influence on the world becomes worthless. The sermon closed with a promise from Jeremiah 32:39, where God says He will give His people "singleness of heart and action," meaning our behavior is meant to line up with our identity. Pastor Brent summed it up simply: line up for influence.

KEY POINTS

- ◆ Jesus declares you salt and light before you do anything; it's your identity in Christ (**Matthew 5:13–14**).
- ◆ Salt preserves righteousness, improves the taste of life through gracious words (**Colossians 4:6**), and makes people thirsty for Jesus.
- ◆ Light that stays hidden isn't doing what light is for; good works point others to God (**Matthew 5:16**).
- ◆ The warning isn't about losing salvation, but about becoming functionally worthless for influence when behavior drifts from identity.
- ◆ God's promise in **Jeremiah 32:39** is "singleness of heart": lining up who we are with how we live is His ongoing work in us, not something we manufacture alone.



UP · 20 MIN

A Daily Relationship with God

BIG IDEA

Before we do anything, God has already made us salt and light. It's identity, not achievement. Our relationship with Him is what sustains our "saltiness"; drifting from Him is what leaches it out.

SCRIPTURE AT THE CENTER

Matthew 5:13

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?"

Jesus starts with a declaration, not a command. Salt in the ancient world would sometimes dissolve down to a worthless, salty-looking residue. Jesus' warning isn't about losing your salvation; it's about drifting so far from your identity that your influence on the world dries up.

Jeremiah 32:39

"I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me, and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them."

Our best life is one of alignment: behavior lined up with identity. That alignment is God's ongoing work in us, not something we produce through willpower alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Jesus says you already are salt and light before you do anything. How does resting in that identity change how you approach today?
- ◆ What's one place your walk with God has grown "diluted" lately, the way salt loses its potency?
- ◆ Pastor Brent said we all know we're called to be salt and light, but we forget and end up living without much intentionality. What helps you remember it day to day?
- ◆ Jeremiah 32:39 says God gives "singleness of heart and action." Where do you most feel a gap between what you believe and how you actually live?



IN · 15 MIN

A Shared Life Together

WHY THIS MATTERS

Our identity as salt and light is given individually, but it's meant to be lived out communally. Pastor Brent shared that his dad used to say, "Brent, we're Warkentins, we don't do that," a family identity shaping family behavior. Our Grow Group can serve the same purpose: a place where our shared identity in Christ shapes how we actually treat one another.

Colossians 4:6

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt."

People should walk away from conversations with us feeling noticed, affirmed, and loved. That starts inside the group before it ever reaches the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Brent's dad used the phrase "we're Warkentins, we don't do that" to connect identity and behavior. What group or identity (family, church, this Grow Group) speaks into your behavior the same way?
- ◆ Where in your Grow Group could a little more "grace, seasoned with salt" change the way you talk with one another?
- ◆ Pastor Brent said aligning behavior with identity takes discipline, confession, and the encouragement of others. Who in your life do you let speak honestly into your blind spots?



OUT • 10 MIN

An Outward-Focused Faith

LIVING IT OUT

Salt preserves righteousness and slows decay. It makes life taste better. And it makes people thirsty for Jesus. Light that's raised up, not hidden, lets people see good works and glorify God (**Matthew 5:16**). Pastor Brent's closing challenge was simple: line up your behavior with who God has called you to be. That's the secret sauce of influence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What's one place you can "preserve righteousness" this week, in a conversation, a vote, a decision at work?
- ◆ What's one small act of kindness or generosity that could make someone around you thirsty for Jesus?
- ◆ Where have you been "covering your light" lately out of fear or hesitation? What would it look like to raise it up instead?

FOCUS ON GROUP PROJECT — LIVING IT OUT

Depending on your group's OUT PROJECT, there may not be much to report each week, and that's okay! The biggest thing is simply keeping us in the loop.

- If you haven't already: please let us know what your group has chosen for your OUT PROJECT.
- As you go, keep us updated on any significant changes, needs, or progress with your project.
- Need ideas, resources, or guidance? Visit our Grow Group Leaders page for more help.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by inviting the group to share prayer requests. Then lead the group in prayer, drawing from these prompts from today's sermon:

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that each person would rest in their identity as salt and light, not as something to earn but as a gift already given.
- Pray for courage this week to not "cover the light," even when it feels safer to stay quiet (Matthew 5:15).
- Pray for opportunities to be salt that makes the people around us thirsty for Jesus.
- Pray that God would grow "singleness of heart and action" in each person, lining up behavior with identity (Jeremiah 32:39).



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