## **Blessed**

# Week 9: You are the Salt of the Earth.

## **CCV Groups Discussion Guide**

#### **OPENING QUESTION:**

Can you share a time when you felt like you made a positive impact in your community or workplace, even if it seemed small at the time?

### **GROUPS VIDEO GUIDE**

#### **READ:**

Matthew 5:13-16

#### **DISCUSS:**

- 1. In the sermon Mark says, "A church mixed with the world becomes a weapon of war for the enemy". How do we make sure that doesn't happen at CCV?
- 2. In Matthew 5:13:16, Jesus calls us to be the salt and light of the earth. How do these metaphors speak to the role we are meant to play in the world?
- 3. What are some practical ways we can preserve and enhance the goodness in our communities, much like salt preserves food?
- 4. Reflecting on your own life, what specific actions can you take this week to be 'salt and light' in your sphere of influence?

#### **GROUP CHALLENGE:**

Invite someone who doesn't attend church to our Christmas Eve services. Share who you will be inviting with the group and pray for God to open their hearts to your invitation. Once you've made the invitation, share how it went with your group.

### **TAKE HOME QUESTIONS:**

**Table Talk** (a question to ask your family or friends over a meal): Can you recall a time when someone we know made a positive impact in our community or family? What can we learn from them and how can we do more to make a difference in our family or community?

**Water Cooler** (a question to ask at work): What's one small action you've seen someone take that made a big difference in your community or at work?

### **PRAYER:** (Read this over the group)

St. Francis of Assisi was a 13th-century Italian friar known for his devotion to poverty, humility, and peace. His "Prayer for Peace" allows us to ask God to help us be salt and light by promoting love, hope, and unity, reflecting Christ's transformative impact on society.

#### St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace):

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

#### **SCRIPTURES:**

- Colossians 4:6 "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."
- Philippians 2:15 "So that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky."
- 1 Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."
- Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

• **Ephesians 5:8-9 -** "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)."