**Becoming a Difference Maker Discussion Guide**

Over the past several weeks, we’ve learned that the beatitudes describe the inner qualities of a true disciple. If we live out these characteristics, we will make an impact in our world for Christ. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus uses salt and light to teach us how to make a difference in our world for Him. Salt and Light are both very unique: Both carry influence, are noticed instantly, are difficult to hide, and are found everywhere. Both make an incredible difference wherever they are present.

We are commanded to be salt and light and the common denominator of salt and light is their uniqueness and distinctness. There’s nothing quite like salt and there is nothing quite like light. Salt is different than pepper and light is different than darkness. Likewise, we are to be distinct from the world. It is our distinctiveness that makes a difference in the world. It’s the holiness, the righteousness of God living through us.

God gives us the opportunity to have an enormous influence for Him. We can make an eternal difference in the lives of the people around us. We can literally change the world. As they see the beauty of our lives, they will be attracted to Jesus. As they see the light in us, they will see the one who gives us the light. They will be attracted to our Savior and God will get the credit.

**Key Verses: Matthew 5:13-16**

**Discussion Questions:**

* Pastor Allen talked about some of the uses of salt: it’s a preservative, it provides flavor, it’s an antiseptic, it gives strength, and it creates thirst. Pick two uses and discuss how they teach us to point people to Jesus.
* Pastor Allen also talked about the functions of light: it dispels darkness, it reveals things hidden in the dark, it wakes you up, and it can serve as a warning (like a lighthouse or police lights). Pick two functions and discuss how they teach us to help people discover their need for Jesus.

**Prayer Focus:**

Ask God to give you the strength to make a difference in your world for Christ. Pray for boldness and courage to live out the principles Jesus taught us in the beatitudes.

**Next Steps**

1. Think of specific ways you can be “salt” and “light” to others around you and how you will put those into practice.
2. If the beatitudes show us the inner qualities of a true disciple, how do you measure up? In what area(s) do you need to improve and what will you do to make those improvements.