

Session Outline 5: Salt

The aim of this session is to consider how the Great Commission points us to the life and teaching of Jesus, which reveal the values of God's Kingdom and call us to radical living.

DiSCoVER _
mission _ connection _ identity

Open

Ask the group to consider the values that characterised Jesus' ministry – maybe suggest that people jot down 3 or 4 words/phrases each, which can then be shared and discussed. "Jesus' ministry was characterised by...?" Give an example if required.

- In your own words, without looking it up, what is the Great Commission?

Engage

Show the 'Salt' film from the DVD. You might like to suggest that group members make a mental note (or jot down a shorthand reminder) of any words, phrases or ideas that they find particularly striking.

After watching the film, ask whether anyone would like to share any comments or questions that arose as a result of what they heard and saw?

Explore

The following questions may provide a helpful framework for discussion – use and adapt them as you see fit.

- In what specific ways does the Great Commission set the agenda for the future?
- In what sense does the Great Commission also prompt us to look back at the words and actions of Jesus throughout his ministry?
- Imagine that you were a witness to the things that Jesus said and did during his time on earth. Share some examples of things that would have been seen as 'radical' and contrary to the cultural norms and religious traditions of the day.

Read the story recorded in John 8:2-11, which shows Jesus challenging religious norms?

- What is surprising about Jesus' words and actions here? What 'Kingdom values' are revealed?

Read vs 12, which record Jesus' words immediately after the episode with the woman.

- Do you think the timing of this statement is significant?

Read Matthew 5:1-16, which records the opening sections of the Sermon on the Mount

- The Sermon on the Mount is as challenging and relevant today as it was for those first disciples. Consider each of the following statements and discuss how they offer a radical alternative to the values of society today. What might they mean in reality?
 - Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God
 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God
 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God
- From your own experiences, share some examples of how Christ's followers today are living radical lives that challenge the norms and reflect God's Kingdom.
- What specific things can you do or say in the next week, or in the coming months, to be Light and to be Salt to *your* world?

Respond

Perhaps in their own time, the group members could draw up a list of 5 'Kingdom Values' that they would like to shape their engagement with others in the coming week. Throughout the week, they can maybe make a brief note of examples or occasions when they see these values lived out, by them or by others.