



WEEK FIVE

## Showing Up

August 23 & 24, 2014

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The early Christians in Rome did not have it easy. They were persecuted, blamed for crimes they didn't commit, even fed to lions. Yet Jesus painted an encouraging picture of their circumstances; he said they were "the salt of the earth," and "the

light of the world." While they were simply trying to stay alive, Jesus was saying that they had been strategically placed by God. Could this be true of your life and your circumstances too?

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. How important is brand recognition in the market place?

What do you think would happen if every retail item was packaged the same way?

#### 2. In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3–10, Jesus said some surprising things regarding power and influence, and He shared a number of qualities that He associates with being blessed. What are they?

What qualities do you typically associate with being blessed? Are these qualities the typical "brand" for believers today?

#### 3. Take a look at Matthew 5:13-16. What do these verses say we already are?

How would these verses be different if Jesus had said "Be salt," and "Be Light?"

**4. What did Pastor Jeff say was the main use of salt in the days of the early church?**

How does this metaphor regarding salt speak to us today?

**5. Who has influenced your faith by being salt and light in your life? What did you learn from their example?**

What was it about them that left an impression on you? How were they different from other Christians you'd met?

**6. Why is it difficult to live as Jesus describes in the Sermon on the Mount?**

**7. How does "showing up" make a difference? How is "showing up" different than "speaking out" or "standing strong?"**

**8. Read Philippians 2:12-15. How does Paul tell us to "show up" in these verses? For what reason? To accomplish what? How do you see salt and light working symbolically in these verses?**

**Personal Meditation:** Author David Kinnaman wrote: "Being salt and light demands two things: we practice purity in the midst of a fallen world and yet we live in proximity to this fallen world. If you don't hold up both truth in tension, you invariably becomes useless and separated from the world God loves." This week meditate on both the purity of your life before God AND your proximity to the people in your life who need God. Where can you "show up" this week?

**Memorize Matthew 5:16** —"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (NLT)