



Parenting Guide

Sermon on the Mount | Week 3

Parenting Guides are provided by 2 Pillars Church to help *guide* parents in *guiding* their children in family devotional time during the week. We recommend using this around the breakfast or dinner table with your Bible open. We provide five sections aimed to be used five days out of the week (one per day). If you miss a day, skip it and move on. Don't allow this to be legalistic, but rather use it *guide* your devotional time together as a family.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

NOTE: See questions for Day 5 for how the gospel plays into this passage and always have the gospel at the center of how you guide the conversation.

Day 1: Read Matthew 5:13-16

- Say: Jesus says that we are the salt of the earth. That's kind of silly, isn't it?
- Ask: What are some things we put salt on? Why do we put salt on things?
 - *Make this fun and light hearted. The answer you want is, "to make things taste better."*
- Ask: If we put salt on things to make them taste better, what do you think Jesus means by saying that we are the salt of the earth?
 - *We're supposed to make things better.*
- Ask: What are some places or areas we can make better today by being salt?
 - *In your family, school, neighborhood, workplaces, etc.*
- Pray: That as a family, you would be like salt today in the areas mentioned in the previous question. Pray specifically for each member of the family in their respective are(s)..

Day 2: Read Matthew 5:13-16 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Ask: Why was it, again, that we said we put salt on things?
- Ask: Why else might we put salt on things?
 - *The answer you want here is that salt acts like a preservative - depending on your kid(s)' age you may have to give them this answer.*
- Ask: What does a preservative do?
 - *Helps stuff keep from getting rotten. Have fun here and talk about rotten stuff in the fridge.*
- Ask: If we put salt on things to keep them from getting rotten, what do you think Jesus means by saying that we are the salt of the earth?
 - *We're supposed to help things from getting rotten.*
- Ask: What are some places or areas around us that have grown a bit rotten?
- Pray: That as a family, you would be like salt today in the areas mentioned in the previous question.



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Day 3: Read Matthew 5:13-16 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Ask: Let's review - what are the two reasons we put salt on things?
- Say: Let's re-read what Jesus says of those that are not salty.
 - *Re-read or have your kid(s) re-read verse 13.*
- Ask: What does Jesus say about salt that has lost its saltiness? Why does he say that?
- Ask: If Jesus says we are the salt of the world, what does it mean if we lose our saltiness?
- Pray: That as a family, we would always be salty salt, that we would always be involving ourselves the lives of others in such a way that we help make them better and help them from becoming rotten. Pray that we would not lose our saltiness.

Day 4: Read Matthew 5:13-16 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Ask: Review - what are the two reasons we put salt on things?
- Ask: What else does Jesus say in this passage that we are?
 - *Light.*
- Ask: What does light do?
 - *It illuminates, it guides, it helps us see everything else around us properly.*
- Do: If possible, turn out all of the lights or go into a room without any windows and turn out the lights (bathrooms work well).
 - With all the lights turned off, pick something you know exists in the room and ask - can you see such and such?
 - Ask: Why can't you see very well? Why can't you see such and such?
 - Turn the lights back on. Can you see it now? Why?
- Ask: So what does it mean when Jesus says we are the light of the world?
 - *We help the world to see things properly by telling them the truth about God.*
- Pray: That as a family, you would be light to the world. That you would help others to see properly by pointing them to God, who is the ultimate light.

Day 5: Read Matthew 5:13-16 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Ask: Who does Jesus say is the light of the world?
- Say: Let's read John 8:12.
- Ask: Who does Jesus say is the light of the world in John 8:12?
- Ask: Which is it? Is Jesus the light of the world or are we? How can it be both?
 - *We are light in the world because Jesus is the light of the world and Jesus lives in us, as Christians, by the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.*
- Ask: When we think about Jesus living in us, is it easier to think of how we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world?
 - *Be sure to point to how it is not "up to us, it is up to Him through us."*
- Pray: Thanking Jesus for being the light of the world and thanking Him that he chooses to work in our hearts and through our lives to be salt and light in the world.