

# THE LIFE OF JESUS

Message 9  
Exercising Influence  
February 26, 2017  
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## ► Discussion Guide

Use this guide to deepen your faith and stir meaningful conversations with friends and family.

To join a Small Group, visit [brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups](http://brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups) or email [adults@brookwoodchurch.org](mailto:adults@brookwoodchurch.org). *We are better together!*

### Opening

What was really important to you when you were in middle school?

### Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

#### THE CHARACTER OF THOSE IN THE KINGDOM

Read [Matthew 5:1-12](#) (This is the first part of Reading #54 in *The Life of Jesus*, which also includes verses from [Luke 6:17-26](#)).

1. Name the character traits mentioned in this passage.
2. How can each of these qualities draw us closer to God?
3. Think of someone you know who *hungers and thirsts for righteousness*. What are the distinguishing marks in that person's life?
4. How do the character traits in this passage differ from the values of the world? Identify specific ways followers of Christ are supposed to be different than the world.

#### THE INFLUENCE OF THOSE IN THE KINGDOM

Read [Matthew 5:13](#) (continuing Reading #54 in *The Life of Jesus*).

5. What does it mean to be *the salt of the earth*? (Hint: Think of the various uses of salt, then consider ways God calls His people to be like that.)  
*See also:* [2 Kings 2:20-21](#); [Job 6:6](#); [Mark 9:50](#); [Colossians 4:5-6](#).
6. What makes a person *less salty*?

Read [Matthew 5:14-16](#) (continuing Reading #54 in *The Life of Jesus*).

7. What are practical examples of what it means to be *the light of the world*? *I am being a light when* \_\_\_\_\_.  
*See also:* [Ephesians 5:8-9](#); [2 Corinthians 4:1-6](#); [1 John 2:7-11](#).
8. What point is Jesus making in [vs. 14-15](#)?
9. Spend a few minutes in stillness and silence. What part of this week's lesson is God speaking to you about? What do you hear Him saying? How will you respond?

### Soul Training

Write the words *salt and light* on an index card. Put this somewhere you will see it often. Each time you see this, ask God to fill you with His light and His love. Ask Him to reveal specific people and specific ways you can be salt and light. Use this time to help you *intentionally influence others toward Jesus*.

### Memory Verse

*In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.* [Matthew 5:16 \(HCSB\)](#)

### Daily Reading

Day	<i>The Life of Jesus</i> Reading #	or	Bible Reference
Feb 27	51		<a href="#">Matthew 12:9-14</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 3:1-6</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 6:6-11</a>
Feb 28	52		<a href="#">Matthew 12:15-21</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 3:7-12</a>
Mar 1	53		<a href="#">Matthew 10:2-4</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 3:13-19</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 6:12-16</a>
Mar 2	54 - Matthew		<a href="#">Matthew 5:1-7:29</a>
Mar 3	54 - Luke		<a href="#">Luke 6:17-49</a>

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Sunday, March 5, we'll examine a key question from John the Baptizer. Read [Matthew 11:1-19](#) and [Luke 7:18-35](#) (Reading #57 in *The Life of Jesus*).



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