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# A Word to Leaders

Jesus said, “*You are the salt of the earth.*”

We’re here to awaken others’ thirst for God and offer them Living Water.

But sometimes the hardest thing about sharing the Gospel with those who need Jesus is just getting the conversation started.

*Salt...Creating Thirst* aims to prepare and empower your students for initiating authentic, give-and-take spiritual conversations that point people toward Jesus.

Each lesson preps your students to use a different, thought-provoking video clip to initiate spiritual conversations with their unreached friends. These engaging clips each pose a thirst-creating question. Each week’s curriculum lesson explores one of these questions in greater theological depth and also provides practical, how-to-share insights specific to the clip, along with a challenge to share it. The five questions *Salt* tackles are:

- Have you ever wondered about God?
- How valuable am I?
- What happens after we die?
- Why does God let bad things happen?
- What makes for good relationships?

But *Salt* is about more than evangelism. These are five bedrock, life-impacting questions every student—Christian or not—needs to wrestle with. No matter where someone falls on the spiritual-maturity spectrum, these topics ripple through all of life. It’s vital that our students understand deep in their souls what God’s Word has to say about these foundational issues.

After all, what Christian student doesn’t sometimes:

- ...wonder what God’s really like?
- ...struggle with their self-worth?
- ...wonder what lies beyond death?
- ...question God’s goodness when bad things happen?
- ...struggle with messy relationships?

Part of the beauty of *Salt* is that it intersects at the twin ministry goals of every leader: discipleship *and* evangelism. *Salt* cultivates a deeper understanding of God in the lives of Christian students, while simultaneously training and equipping them to reach out to their friends who need Jesus. It’s a win-win for discipleship *and* evangelism.

# How to Use This Curriculum

This goal of this curriculum is to drive your group toward authentic discussion, walk you through Scripture, and challenge and equip your students to reach out to those who need Jesus.

Each week's lesson opens with a fun group activity, before guiding you through the lesson's video content, discussion questions, and a variety of student activities laid out in the *Salt* student handouts.

The structure for each lesson is built around the following S-A-L-T grid:

**Search the Bible** Explores the biblical truth that answers the question.

**Apply the Truth Personally** Unpacks how this biblical truth applies to you.

**Listen to Others Deeply** Suggests questions to ask others as you initiate spiritual conversations.

**Talk About the Gospel** Explains how a Gospel conversation on this topic might unfold.

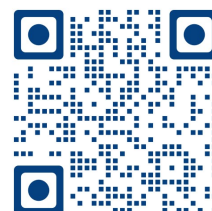
Each lesson includes step-by-step directions, discussion questions, Scripture, Gospel presentations, and more. Remember that your objective during your group time is not to plow through all the questions but rather to engage in deep, spiritual discussion that motivates students toward action. If your discussion times go well, there will be more content in this Leader's Guide than your group has time for, so feel free to pick and choose what to cover and what to cut. Often, fewer questions will be the better way to go.

If your group is hesitant to participate in the discussion time, I encourage you to ask your question and wait patiently for your students to engage. Waiting creates tension, and tension is a tool for change. Also feel free to customize your use of the materials to your own situation. The detailed lesson flow provided here is simply a sample script.

The evangelism takeaway for each lesson is to share the *Salt* clip with someone and have a follow-up conversation. There's also a "storytelling" time built in. Creating a storytelling culture in which students encourage and pray for each other's efforts be "salt" to their friends helps keep evangelism on everyone's radar. And don't focus on just the success stories—make it a time for the good, the bad, and the ugly—there's always something to be learned.

Also built into each lesson is a clear Gospel presentation. I strongly encourage you to share the Gospel message each week. Don't simply assume that all your students have previously understood or embraced the Gospel. Plus, you're modeling how important it is to share it.

Follow up with those who decide to trust in Christ. Get them grounded and growing in their new faith. For help discipling new believers, check out these videos:



May God bless you as you help your students be “salt” and create a thirst for Jesus in the lives of their friends!

Greg Stier  
Dare 2 Share

## [Intro & Session 1]

# Introducing Salt + Have You Ever Wondered About God?

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** *Matthew 5:13, Colossians 1:15, Philippians 3:8-9*

## Supplies

- Projection equipment
- *Salt...Creating Thirst* clips
- Student handouts
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Printed list of words for Ice-melter opener

Note that you may need a little extra time the first week to cover both the introductory video and the first lesson. Depending on your time constraints, feel free to pick and choose from the discussion questions.

## Ice-Melter: Text Me

Text Me is a version of the old “telephone” whisper-in-your-ear game. But instead of whispering a word or phrase, students use their finger to write a word on the arm of the next person.

Organize your students into teams of 8 to 10, with each team forming a separate line. Using the list of words provided below, secretly communicate to the first person in each team’s line the exact same word to pass along via the “arm texting” method of communication. The word gets passed from person to person silently, through the writing motion on each arm. Those on the team who haven’t received the text yet must keep their eyes closed. Absolutely no peeking or whispering allowed—this is tactile communication only. Have the final person in each line shout the word out loud immediately when the message gets to them. Award a point to the first team that finishes with the correct word. Word by word, run the teams simultaneously through the list of words. Tally the cumulative points to determine the winning team.

Work from this word list:

- exercise
- popcorn
- ham
- heat
- pickles
- Doritos
- PB&J
- peanuts



# Introducing the Series

After the opening activity, settle your students, gather their attention up front, and open with prayer. Then reread the entire list of words just used in the game.

## ASK

**Did anyone pick up on a common thread across this list of words that we used when we played our game?** (All make you thirsty. But if no one picks up on the common thread, encourage them to think about the question as they watch the video introduction to the *Salt* series, and then revisit the question.)

## EXPLAIN

Let's take a look at the intro video. It will help give us a feel for our new five-week series.

## VIDEO

Play "Introducing *Salt*."

## EXPLAIN

**What was the common thread in our word game?** (Things that make you thirsty)

Creating thirst—that's what this series is about.

## ASK

- In Matthew 5:13, Jesus said to His followers, *"You are the salt of the earth."*
- Does this seem like a strange thing to say? What was Jesus talking about when He said this?
- What is salt used for? (Brings flavor, makes things taste better, preserves food)
- Is Jesus talking about physical thirst, like you get when you eat lots of salty foods?

## EXPLAIN

Here's *The Message* paraphrase of Jesus's statement about us being salt: *"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth."*

## ASK

- How do followers of Jesus add flavor to things?

## EXPLAIN

As believers, we should bring a God-flavor—or you could say, a God-focus—to everything! And our God-focus should improve everything we touch: at our school, in our relationships, our music, our entertainment, our clubs and teams, our job—everything. Everywhere we are, as Christians, Jesus says we're to add a God-flavor to things—including our conversations.

So for the next five weeks, we're going to be learning how to be "salt" in our conversations. We're going to learn how to initiate give-and-take spiritual conversations with others, especially with those who don't know Jesus.

Each week we'll be exploring a different spiritual question people often wonder about. For each

question, we'll take a look at a different, thought-provoking clip you can use to get a conversation about Jesus started with your friends.

Trust me. This is not in any way going to be an exercise in shoving your beliefs down someone else's throat. On the contrary, this series and the clips we're going to be talking about are designed to help you learn how to engage in real, authentic, relevant, spiritual conversations about topics people care about. And the goal is to awaken a thirst in others that only Jesus—the Living Water—can quench.

This is about inviting people into conversations that matter for all eternity, until everyone around us has the chance to hear the good news of the Gospel from someone they know and trust.

Granted, for some of us, the thought of talking about Jesus with others can feel scary, intimidating, and outside our comfort zone. But don't worry—that just means there's more room for God to move in and help you along the way.

So now it's time to jump into the first topic *Salt* addresses: "Have you ever wondered about God?"

Pass out the *Salt* Week 1 handout and pens/pencils.

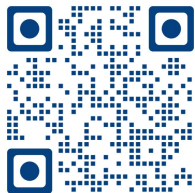
Take a minute to respond to the question you see there: What are the first five words that jump into your head when you hear the word "God"?

Pause for a minute to give students time to write down their thoughts, and then ask for volunteers to share some of their words.

There are lots of different views of God out there, which is evident from the variety of our responses just here in our own group. And that makes this question particularly intriguing. So let's take a look at our video now and dig a little deeper.

## VIDEO

Play the clip *Have You Ever Wondered About God?*



### ASK (PICK ONE OR TWO QUESTIONS.)

- Do you think most people have wondered about God at some point in their lives? Why do you say that?
- Do you agree that people pick and choose their view of God like they pick and choose their hats? Why do you think that?
- Where do people's views of God come from?
- Why are there so many different views of God?
- What do you think are some of the most commonly held views about God among your friends?



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