

A person with long brown hair, wearing a blue ribbed sweater and light blue jeans, is seen from the back, looking out over a vast, flat, white salt flat. In the distance, there are green mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and open.

SALT

CREATING THIRST

LEADER'S GUIDE

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DARE 2 SHARE CURRICULUM PREVIEW

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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 is designed 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 YouTube *Salt* clip to initiate spiritual conversation with their unreached friends. These creatively engaging YouTube clips 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 YouTube *Salt* 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 spiritual topics ripple through all of life. It’s vital that our students understand deep in their souls what God’s Word has to say on 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, and/or
- ...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, which will help you build a thriving Gospel Advancing Ministry. For more free Gospel Advancing Youth Ministry insights and ideas, go to www.gospeladvancing.org.

How to Use This Curriculum

This Leader's Guide, your *Salt* Training Session videos, the free YouTube *Salt* clips and the companion *Salt* student handouts will 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 training video content, discussion questions and a variety of student activities laid out in the *Salt* student handouts. You'll need to print handouts each week for all your students.

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 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. Oftentimes, 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. But, in any case, you know your students best, so customize your use of the materials to your own situation.

The detailed lesson flow provided here is simply a sample script.

To help you customize the materials to best fit your group, you'll find both a PDF and an editable Word format version of this Leader's Guide in your *Salt* download folder. There are also a couple PowerPoint background slides you can customize. For your convenience, you have permission to make up to ten copies of the *Salt* videos and Leader's Guide for use within your church. The *Salt* student handouts may be reproduced.

The evangelism takeaway for each lesson is to share the *Salt* clip with someone and have a follow up conversation about it. There's a report back "storytelling" time built into your weekly leader's material. Creating a storytelling culture where students encourage and pray for each other's efforts to use the *Salt* clips and 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 make a decision to trust in Christ. Get them grounded and growing in their new faith. For help discipling new believers, check out the free follow-up *Ignition Seven* discipleship videos at www.somethingamazing.net/moving-forward.

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
President, Dare 2 Share



GOD?

[Intro & Session 1]

Introducing Salt & Have You Ever Wondered About God?

KEY SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 5:13, COLOSSIANS 1:15, PHILIPPIANS 3: 8-9

Supplies

- Video projection equipment
- Training Videos: Introducing Salt, Salt Session 1
- Student handout #1 - one for each student
- Pens/pencils
- Bibles
- Printed list of words for Icemelter 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.

Icemelter: Text Me

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

Organize your students into teams of 8-10, 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 so that they can't see the spelling of the word being passed along the chain. 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, simultaneously run the teams 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
- P90X
- 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 any sort of 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)
- **Is Jesus talking about physical thirst, like you get when you consume lots of salty foods?**

Pass out *Salt* student handout #1 and pens/pencils.

EXPLAIN

The Message paraphrase of Jesus' statement about us being salt puts it like this: "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're to bring a God-flavor—or you could say, a God-focus—to everything we're about! 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 conversation 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 YouTube clip that 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 YouTube 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 can only be quenched by Jesus, the Living Water.

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?" But before we watch our video session, on the first page of your handout, take a minute and 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 Training Session 1 video.

ASK (PICK ONE OR TWO.)

- 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?
- Are some of the different views of God contradictory to each other? Can all the different views of God be right? Why or why not?

EXPLAIN

It's fine to exercise our personal preference when we choose our hats, but it's a whole different thing when we're talking about God...It's about more than personal preference, it's about GOD. Who He is and what He's like is not determined by US, it's determined by God.

So let's take a look at what the Bible has to say to those who "wonder about God" and want to know what He's like.

Search the Bible

ASK

- Can I have a volunteer look up John 14:8-9 in their Bible and read it out loud for us?

THE BIBLE SAYS...

John 14:8-9: Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! ..."

ASK

- So here we have Philip wondering about God. What does Jesus say to him here?
- Now let's take a look at the passage Zane talked about in the video. Can I have a volunteer read Colossians 1:15 and 20? You can find these verses on page 2 of your handout.