1. Have you ever been nervous or hesitant to do something for which you've clearly been prepared? What made you so? How did you press through?

- 2. Read the Beatitudes (Matt 5:1–12). Summarize the character forming work of God as represented in these blessings. In what ways is the Spirit shaping us for His counter-cultural work?
- 3. Read Matthew 5:13–16. Describe in your own words what Jesus means by the two metaphors, salt and light. How do salt and light impact the environments into which they are placed? How are disciples of Jesus equipped to make the same kind of impact?
- 4. Why do we sometimes lose our saltiness or place our light under a bowl? Why is it imperative that we resist these pitfalls? What about our peculiarity in the world makes it necessary for us to carry out these functions?
- 5. Take a personal inventory of your saltiness and sunshine. In what ways are you salty and bright now? In what ways could your potency increase? Ask God for strength, perseverance, and courage to take the stage!