



# Salty Thoughts

## Children's Story

Cycle A, Epiphany 5

**Title:** Salty Thoughts  
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**Church:** Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg MB  
**Text:** Matthew 5: 13 (14-20).  
**Theme:** Jesus wants us to be like salt for the world

### Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they arrive and let them know that it encourages you to be together with them for this Children's Time. Ask them if any of them like salty food? Wonder together why so many people like salt. Settle into the awareness of being in Jesus' presence and of passing on his wisdom to the children and the congregation as you prepare to tell this story. Explain that today's Gospel reading is from Matthew 5 and talks about salt. Ask them to prepare their bodies and hearts to hear this short reading from God's word. Read verse 13 to them and ask them to wonder together with you what that might mean.

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**Story:**

Like you and me, Luke had been wondering about what Jesus could have meant when he said we were to be like salt for the earth. Luke wondered if people taste salty so he licked his arm. Hmm, maybe a little. He looked out the window at the wintery roads. A truck was spreading something that looked like sand on them, but when he asked his Mom about it, she said it was spreading salt and sand. The sand created friction and the salt helped the ice melt so that it would be safer to drive and walk. This made Luke wonder if Jesus wanted us to keep others from falling down on the ice, so he went to ask his older brother, Marc, who was cooking supper that night. He thought Jesus would like Luke's idea of helping people walk and drive on slippery roads. As he tasted the soup he was cooking, he noticed that it needed more salt. That gave him a salty idea of his own. Maybe Jesus meant we were supposed to add flavour to life the way salt adds flavour to soup. While the soup was simmering, they decided to look up information about cooking with salt. Marc "Googled" till he found a site called "history of salt." There Marc found out that unrefined chunks of salt, from places like the Dead Sea, were used to preserve and season food. Instead of pouring it from a little box like we do, cooks used to keep gravel-like salty chunks in a cloth bag. This bag was dipped into soups or vats of fish until enough salt dissolved out of the rocks to flavour or preserve their food. Once the salt was all dissolved out of these chunks, nothing but bits of gravel stayed in the bag. Then it was time to throw them out and get some new salt chunks. Marc and Luke thought about that for a while. They were learning a lot about salt. Salt was important for safety, for flavour, and for keeping food from going bad when you don't have a freezer. But how could people be like that for each other? They decided that the question needed to simmer in their heads and hearts, just like the soup needed to simmer on the stove.

**Prayer:**

Jesus, we thank you for teaching us about salt and learning to be salty. It sounds a little strange but it also makes us feel good inside to wonder about it. Please help what we've learned about being like salt to simmer in our heads and hearts so that we grow in our understanding of what you taught. Amen.

**Wondering questions:**

- I wonder how many uses there are for salt.
- I wonder what ways Jesus thought people were like salt.
- I wonder how we can help each other be salty.