

THE CROSS

Salt of the Earth: Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank

Study Guide

<http://www.saltfilms.net>



Summary: This session focuses on witness and service. Jesus tells us we are “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” He tells us to take up our crosses and follow him. We’ll examine these passages as we see how they shape the life of Afaf, a retired schoolteacher living in Nablus. She shares her deep faith and her desire to serve in Christ’s name.

3 **Prayer and introduction**
min

Sample Prayer

Merciful God, open your scriptures to us, let them breathe new life and love into our witness and service. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

3 **Scripture**
min Matthew 5:13-16
Matthew 16:24

20 **Questions**

min 1) What do you think Jesus meant by “salt” and “light”? How are you and your congregation salt and light?

2) What does it mean to carry our cross? Is carrying our cross different from being salt and light? How do you and your congregation carry the cross of Christ?

11 **Film**
min “The Cross” segment.

10 **Questions**

min How does Afaf seek to be salt and light? To carry her cross?
What can we learn from her about witness and service?

4 **Closing and prayer**
min

Sample Prayer

Lord, we pray for Afaf, her witness, her church, and her community. We pray for us, our witness, our church, and our community. Teach your believers how to be the salt of the earth. Show us how to let our light shine. Help us to be cities on a hill. Prepare us to share your Good News in all the world. In Christ’s name, Amen.

<h2>Daily Walk</h2> <p>An invitation to daily prayer and witness</p>	
<p>Daily Prayer: <i>Frame your daily walk with this series in prayer—feel free to use your own prayer or the one provided:</i> Lord of all, we pray for the power of your Spirit to fill your Church, encouraging and preparing us for witness and service for your kingdom. In Christ's name. Amen.</p>	<p>Daily Action: Available online: http://www.saltfilms.net/guides/cross-student.pdf</p> <p>Day 1) <i>Read Scripture:</i> James 2:14-26.</p> <p>Day 2) <i>Hear from a Holy Land Christian:</i> Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah' 2005 Pentecost homily. http://www.lpj.org/Patriarchs/Sabbah/Pent_eng_05.htm</p> <p>Day 3) <i>Learn more:</i> "Arabic Speaking Christianity: A glorious past and a challenging present and future," by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bailey. http://www.saltfilms.net/guides/bailey.html</p> <p>Day 4) <i>Be inspired:</i> Work of the Palestinian Bible Society http://www.biblesociety.org/sr_29/sr29_18.htm#Bethlehem</p> <p>Day 5) <i>Share:</i> Take time to tell someone new about how you've been moved this week by this Study Series. Invite him/her to pray with you.</p> <p>Day 6) <i>Act:</i> Consider the needs of your community: where is Christian service and witness needed? Find one thing you can do to help, and make concrete plans to accomplish it.</p>