



# Flavorful Stewardship for Every Season

Presented by Laura S. Watson  
Vice President & Director of Programs  
Moravian Ministries Foundation in America  
March 17, 2026

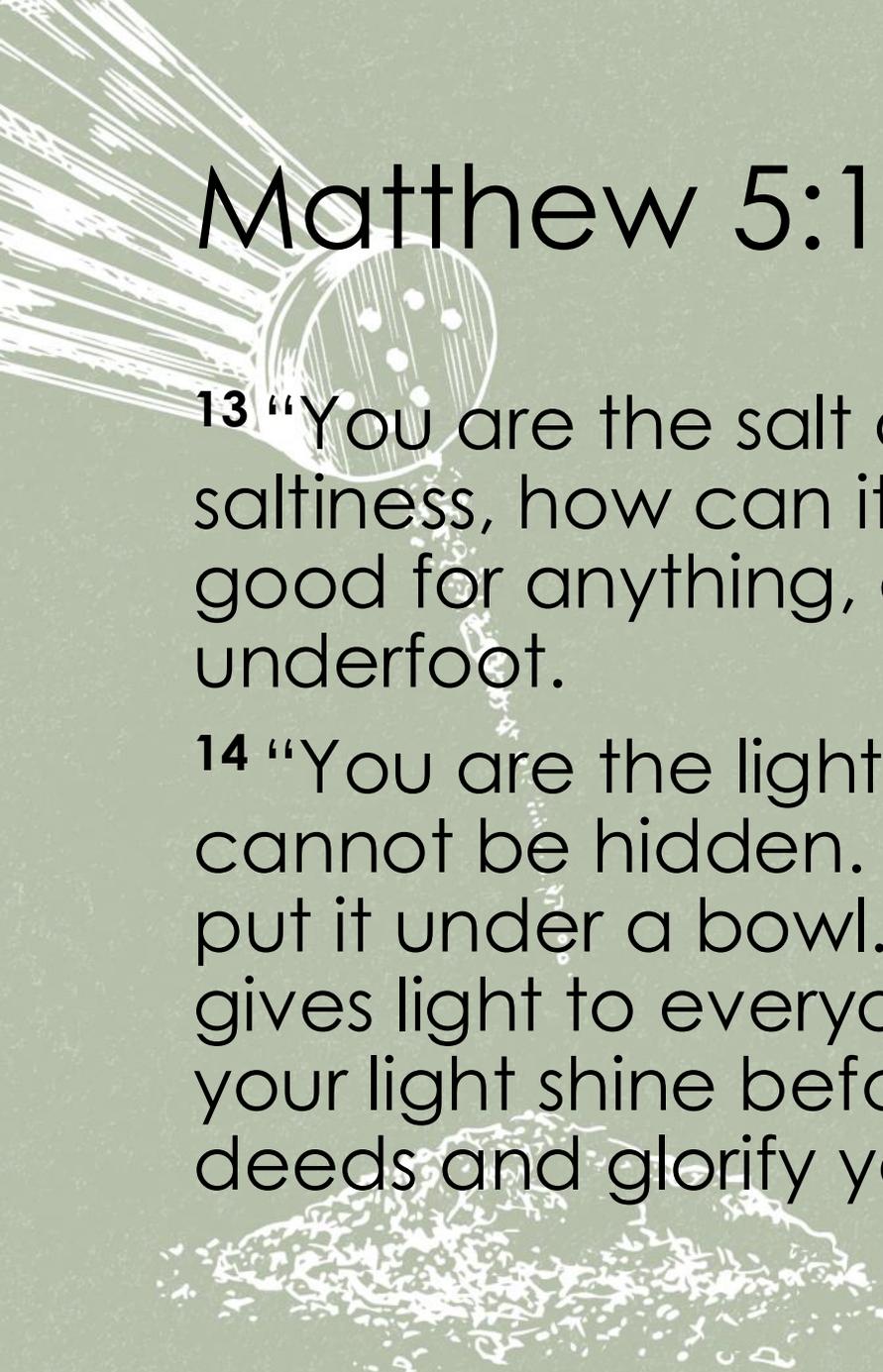
**PASS THE** *Salt*

# Agenda:

- Introduction
- Know Your Ingredients
- Season the Neighborhood
- Preserve What Matters
- Add a Little Friction
- Q&A



# Matthew 5:13-16



**13** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

**14** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

# Know Your Ingredients:

- Ask: What do you actually have?
- Conduct a Community Asset Inventory
- Consider your message: financial vs. whole life stewardship
- Look: The pantry isn't empty.



# Know Your Ingredients: Action Ideas

- Asset Inventory Sunday
- Congregational Asset Map
- ABCD Institute's [4-H Gifts and "Know, Teach, Learn"](#) tools
- Stewardship Discovery Team
- Redesign the pledge card



# Know Your Ingredients: Metrics

- Number of gifts and resources identified in congregational inventory (spaces, skills, relationships, etc.)
- Percentage of members who participated in asset mapping
- Qualitative shift: “what do we need” conversations -> “what do we have”
- New ministries or partnerships that emerge from identified gifts and resources

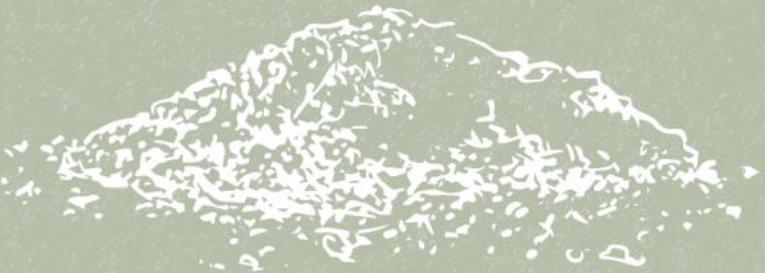
PASS THE  
Salt

# Know Your Ingredients: Discussion Questions

- When your church talks about stewardship, what is typically the first thing that comes to mind? What does that reveal about your congregation's assumptions?
- If you listed everything God has placed in your congregation's hands right now — beyond money — what would be on it? What surprises you?
- Where have you seen a scarcity mindset shape decisions in your community of faith? What would have been different starting from abundance?
- Who in your congregation has gifts or resources that have never been formally recognized or invited into ministry? How might that change?
- What would a Community Asset Inventory look like in your church? Who would lead it? What resistance might you encounter?
- Salt that has lost its saltiness is "no longer good for anything" (Matt. 5:13). In what ways might a congregation that doesn't know its own ingredients be like tasteless salt?

# Season the Neighborhood:

- Ask your neighbors
- Build a community profile: [www.thearda.com](http://www.thearda.com)
- Align gifts with needs
- Choose hyperlocal stewardship
- Connect asks with tangible impact



# Season the Neighborhood: Action Ideas

- One-mile commitment
- Neighborhood line item
- Local partnerships
- Salt Commissioning Sunday

PASS THE  
*Salt*

# Season the Neighborhood: Metrics

- Number of sustained neighborhood partnerships (not one-time events)
- Dollars and volunteer hours invested in hyperlocal community needs
- Feedback from neighbors about the church's presence
- New people connected to congregation through neighborhood engagement

PASS THE  
*Salt*

# Season the Neighborhood: Discussion Questions

- Have you ever asked your neighbors what they need? Why or why not?
- How much of your congregation's energy goes inward vs. outward? Is the balance right?
- What would it look like to organize your next financial stewardship invitation around a neighborhood need, and not just the church's budget?
- How often do you evaluate existing partnerships within the neighborhood?
- What holds your church back from deeper neighborhood engagement? Is it resources, relationships, risk, or something else?

# Preserve What Matters:

- Ask: At what age does your congregation first teach children about stewardship?
- Choose a stewardship curriculum
- Connect the generations
- Pass it on



# Preserve What Matters: Action Ideas

- Youth Generosity Project
- Family stewardship resources
- Collect and share generosity stories
- Mentorship program

PASS THE  
*Salt*

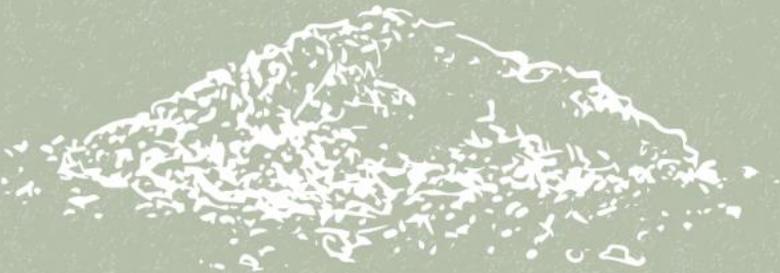
# Preserve What Matters: Metrics

- Number of children and youth participating in intentional steward formation
- Number of intergenerational conversations facilitated
- Generosity stories collected and shared
- Young adult retention and engagement over a 3-5 year window

PASS THE  
*Salt*

# Preserve What Matters: Discussion Questions

- At what age does your congregation begin forming children and youth as stewards? Is it intentional or accidental?
- What stories of generosity exist in your congregation that younger members may never have heard? How are those being preserved and passed on?
- What would a stewardship formation pathway look like in your church from birth through adulthood? What's missing in what you currently offer?
- What is most at risk of being lost in your congregation's stewardship culture if the next generation doesn't receive it?



# Preserve What Matters: Alternatives

- Reframe who the “next generation” is
- Look inside the congregation first
- Form a relationship with a younger congregation
- Spend time discerning
- Pass it on

# Add a Little Friction:

- How does your church talk about money?
- How do you identify obstacles to financial stewardship?
- How transparent is your budget and your budget process?
- Is the way your congregation spends its money a reflection of your values?

# Add a Little Friction: Action Ideas

- Money and Faith Small Groups
- Congregational Stewardship Reflection Guide
- Sermon Series on Money
- Budget Town Hall

PASS THE  
Salt

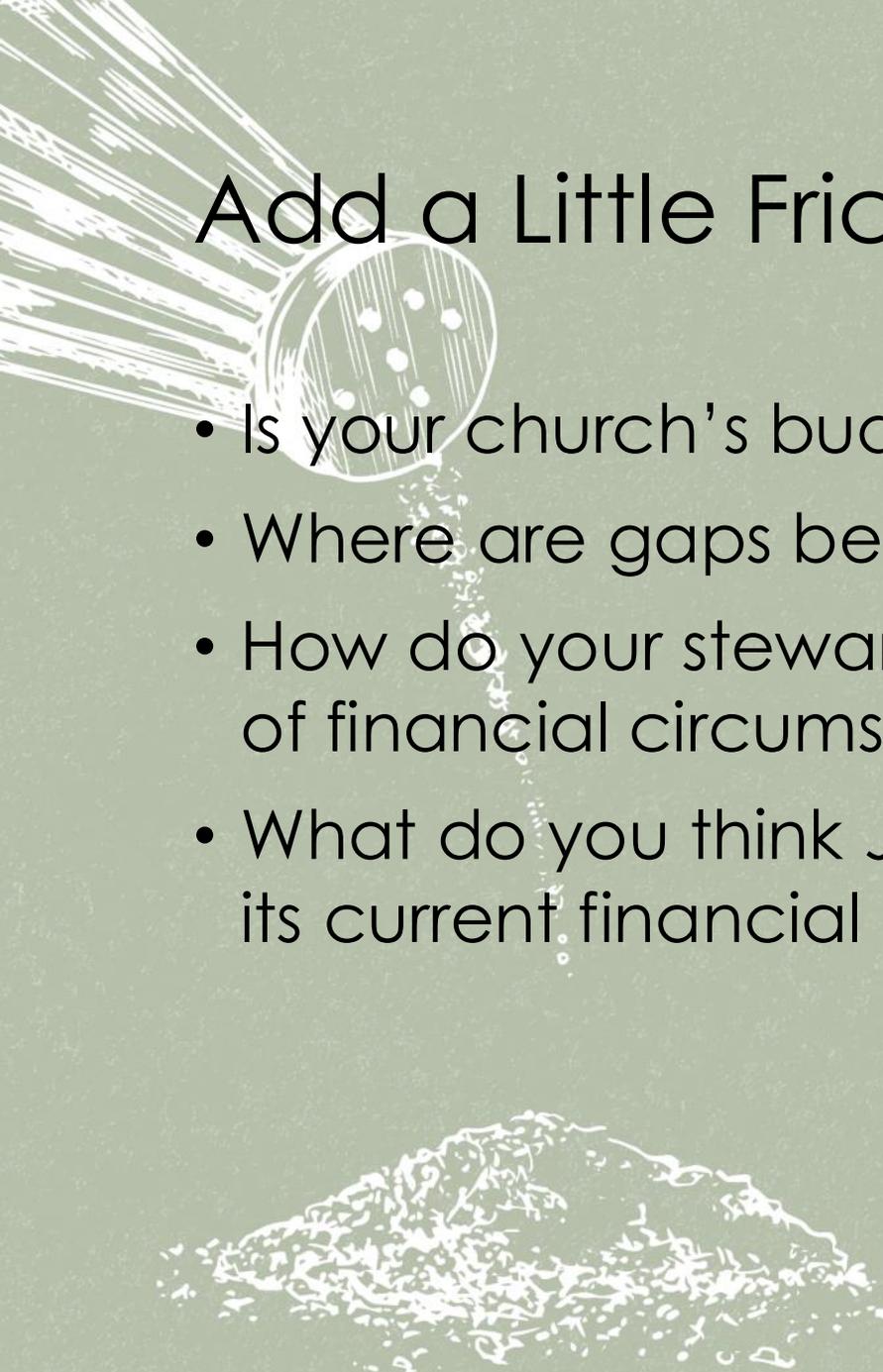
# Add a Little Friction: Metrics

- Attendance and participation in money-and-faith conversations
- Member self-reporting: “I feel more comfortable talking about money and faith than I did a year ago.”
- Financial stewardship growth: not just dollars but breadth of participation
- Pastoral/leadership observation: are hard money conversations happening more naturally?

PASS THE

Salt

# Add a Little Friction: Discussion Questions

- 
- Is your church's budget fully transparent to the congregation?
  - Where are gaps between stated values and actual spending?
  - How do your stewardship efforts acknowledge the wide range of financial circumstances in your congregation?
  - What do you think Jesus would say to your congregation about its current financial practices as well as its stewardship ministry?

# Questions?

Be sure to visit [www.mmfa.com](http://www.mmfa.com) for stewardship resources and to sign up for our quarterly stewardship eNewsletter!

**PASS THE** *Salt*