

Respond / Reflect:

Can you think of someone whose life is an argument for Christianity? What characteristic, behaviors, attitudes do they have that we should emulate?

Why is it hard for us to call out and confront spiritual immaturity?

If a person bumped into you in the grocery store, in the hallway at school, in the breakroom at work, or while waiting at a red light, what would they see and experience flowing out of you?

What are you best known for? Your persistent encouragement? Your love/serving? Your wisdom? Your gratitude? Which of these four is easiest for you? Which of these is the hardest for you?

Dallas Willard says: "One of the great signs of maturity is the thoughts that no longer occur to you." What do you think he means by this?

"Try It!"

Prayer of Examen – At the end of each day this week, ask yourself: What is one way I offered encouragement, expressed love, showed wisdom, and was grateful today?

Read through the book of Colossians once a week during this series. Consider using different translations.

Memorize Colossians 3:17:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Jesus, we have received you as Lord and now long to grow in maturity by walking with you, being rooted and built up in you, and by having you strengthen our faith. Thank you for encouraging us that we might encourage others, for loving us sacrificially so we might love others by serving them, for being our wisdom so we can make life affirming decisions, and for blessing so so richly that we can be grateful in all circumstances. In the name of the exalted Christ. Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Loving our Neighbor

During the month of September, we prayed every day for five (one for every finger on your hand) of our neighbors and five of our coworkers/classmates by name. During the month of October, try and learn something new about 3 of these people by being present with them and asking good questions and listening well.