

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month: Extreme Discipleship: Living into Our Mission

Text for the Week: Colossians 4:2-6

Message for the Week: Devoted to Prayer

Theme for the Week: The Priority of Prayer

Week 11

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

If you needed something, whom would you call at 2:00 in the morning?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read Colossians 4:2-6 out loud. (Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.)

As you read and/or listen to it being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses? What s

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What "God-sized" request are you asking for that only God can answer?

"Before you talk to people about God, talk to God about people." Why is this important?

Every believer should have a prayer list of 3-5 people they are actively praying will come to Jesus. Who's on your list?

Paul says that our conversations should be seasoned with salt. If you had to pick a seasoning or spice to describe the current 'discourse' of our day, what would it be? Why?

How would you give an "elevator pitch" for the Gospel in everyday words to people who have no background in Christianity? Practice sharing it with the group.

"Try It!"

Pray for Pastor Doug, and for our next pastor, that God would empower them to deliver the Gospel message clearly so that people will respond.

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.

Father, thank you for the privilege and opportunity to spend time with you in prayer. Remind us today that we have been given a great treasure in the Gospel with the urgent challenge to tell others about your love and grace. Make us wise in how we act around unbelievers (as well as our fellow believers). Make us courageous, compassionate, and clear in our conversations. In the name of the exalted Christ. Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Hospitality

During the month of November, we encourage you to host an outdoor neighborhood fellowship gathering during the afternoon on Sunday, November 21 to foster hospitality (Romans 12:13) and fellowship within your neighborhood. One simple way you could this is by gathering for cider and doughnut holes around an outdoor firepit in your driveway. Don't want to host alone? Partner with someone else from church or a neighbor in your community to host this fellowship gathering. Please sign up in the back of church if you are planning to participate so that Laura can connect with you for further assistance.

Colossians 4:2-6 New International Version

Further Instructions

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:2-6 The Message

Pray for Open Doors

²⁻⁴ Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude. Don't forget to pray for us, that God will open doors for telling the mystery of Christ, even while I'm locked up in this jail. Pray that every time I open my mouth I'll be able to make Christ plain as day to them.

⁵⁻⁶ Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.