

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

COLOSSIANS: KEEPING THE MAIN ONE THE MAIN THING

Colossians 1:9-14

DISCUSSION 1: PRAYER

1. How would you describe your prayer life? What keeps you personally from praying? What are some reasons we tend to put it off?
2. How does Paul's prayer in 1:9-14 help you know how to pray better?
3. Which aspect of this prayer feels most relevant to where you are today? Why?
4. Who is someone you can pray for today and encourage them by letting them know what you're praying for them?

*Activity. Since this prayer focuses on prayer, we recommend committing a larger portion of your time together to prayer. Consider praying some of the aspects of this prayer back to God and making it more personal. We also encourage everyone to do the 5-Day Prayer Guide this week.

DISCUSSION 2: WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

1. A key emphasis in this prayer, and the letter of Colossians, is allowing Christ and his Word to be our primary authority and source for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. How do we make sure ideas from the world around us (media, books, leaders, news, etc.) fit with the wisdom of Scripture? How might we know when sources outside of Scripture hold too much weight in our understanding?
2. What does it mean to know God? Why do you think Paul would center his prayer on knowing God?
3. What are ways we might pray for the "knowledge of God's will?" Read Eph. 1:17; 1 Cor. 2:12; and Col. 1:9-10. What is the primary focus of knowledge it seems Paul prays for?
4. When we know God and our wisdom and understanding is rooted in Him, why should that lead to fruit in our walk or life? What are reasons there might be a disconnect between our knowledge of God and our walk with God or how we live in this world?

DISCUSSION 3: STRENGTH & GRATITUDE

1. Read Ps 86:16; Col. 1:11, 29; Eph. 1:19; 3:16-21; 6:10; Phil. 4:13. How do these verses help us see that it is God's strength that we need to live according to and not our own? How do we live in his strength?
2. Read Ex. 15:6; 1 Chron. 29:11; Job 26:7-14; Is. 41:10; Jer. 10:12-13; 32:17; Heb. 1:3. What are things in creation demonstrating God's power? What are some things God has done in your life that show his power?
3. How might reflecting on the gospel and rejoicing in it with thanksgiving be part of how God strengthens you, gives you patience and endurance with joy, and increases your knowledge of Him?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to know God? How can we know God?
2. What are ways our life can reflect the worthiness and greatness of God?
3. Are there any things in life that feel too big for you? How does God strengthen us?
4. Why do we need Jesus for rescue from our sin? Why should what Jesus did for us make us thankful and joyful if we've trusted in him?

PERSONAL STUDY & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which words were emphasized, repeated, or seemed connected to one another? What are 2-3 themes or key ideas that emerge?
2. What strikes you most about how Paul prays, who he prays for, or what he prays for them?
3. Who is someone you can pray for today and encourage them by letting them know what you're praying for them?
4. Does your individual and family prayer life include seeking and praising God or is it almost always about your needs? What are indicators to help answer this?
5. The right knowledge of God—revealed in Christ through the Word—is a key theme in Colossians. Read the following verses on wisdom, understanding, and knowledge and record any observations: 1:9 (x3), 10, 28; 2:2 (x2), 3 (x2), 23; 3:10, 16; 4:5.
6. How does the knowledge of God (1:9) lead to living a fruitful life pleasing to Him (1:10)?
7. How can you encourage those closest to you in the mundane “daily-ness” of the Christian walk?
8. Can you recall any times or examples where you saw God's power at work in you or in someone around you? What are other examples from Scripture where God's power can be seen?
9. In 1:9-14 what do you see about (a) God's works or actions on your behalf, (b) God's desires for you, and (c) how you might respond?
10. What are some of the attributes and actions of God you see in this passage? How might those lead you to worship and prayer?

IDEAS FOR RESPONSE

- Use the guide for Five Days of Praying through Colossians 1:9-14. Commit to a time of daily prayer this week, even if it's short.
- Write down 1-2 names of people you're ministering too (maybe people in your small group, friends from church, or unbelievers) and pray for them each day this week. Call, email, text, or write a letter to some of those people letting them know how you're praying for them.
- Have your eyes open today to see all around you in creation the power of God.
- Ask someone if you can pray with them today. Pray for God's power to be at work in their life. Tell people not just that you're praying for them but how you're praying for them.
- Memorize Colossians 1:9-14 as one way to meditate on and pray back the Bible.

- If you have kids, help them to see the value in praying for other gospel partners regularly. Ask them to pray for their Sunday school teachers, friends, neighbors, and others.