

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

PRAY & PURSUE: WEEK 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All to Him Vision Night

Sept. 29 from 6:30-8:30

This is a great night to attend with your group. All are welcome!

<https://crosspointcity.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2414770>

ALL TO HIM

Raise the Flag

Series begins October 10/13

ICEBREAKER: Share a funny, crazy, big or small prayer that you prayed earlier in life, then finish this sentence, "If God had answered that prayer I would _____."

CONTEXT: In Colossians 4:2-6, Paul emphasizes the importance of steadfast prayer, being watchful and thankful, and making the most of every opportunity to share the Gospel. He encourages believers to walk in wisdom and let their speech always be gracious and seasoned with salt.

BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

OVERVIEW: Colossians aim is to deepen our understanding and desire to surrender to the reality of Christ's impact on every aspect of our lives.

Book of Colossians Summary: A Com...

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 4:2-6

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

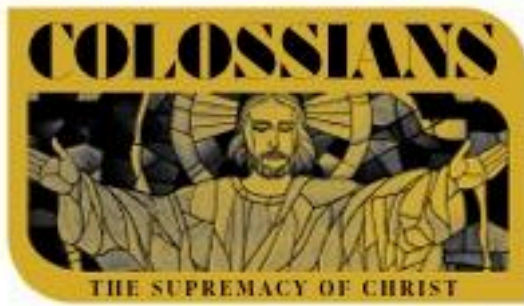
SCRIPTURE READING

An early church tradition was to stand during the reading of God's Word. Standing is a way to show respect and honor to God and His Word. Have the group stand as one person read Colossians 4:2-6 out loud while the rest of the group follows along in their Bible.

STARTER QUESTIONS

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon over the weekend and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

What does this passage (Colossians 3:18-4:1) teach us about God, who He is, and His character?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the “The Bystander Effect” and what was going through your heart and mind as you heard the story of 37 respectable, law-abiding citizens that watched a killer stalk and stab a woman and didn’t call the police until after she died. How does the Bystander Effect relate to you as a follower of Jesus and in the Church?

In your own words, what does it mean to be “steadfast” and “watchful”(vs 2) in your prayer life? When being watchful in prayer for our hurting world, why is it difficult and important to pray and not criticize?

What opportunities does Paul pray for in Colossians 4:3-4? Why do most people rarely, if ever, pray for opportunities to share Jesus with others or actually share the Gospel when God gives us an opportunity?

Think about your prayers today or in the last week. What would happen if God answered your prayers? What would be the impact on the world, our city, our church, other people's lives and even our own?

Make a list of the issues Carlos began his teaching with that are impacting the world around us. (abortion, sex trafficking etc.) Of these Gospel Issues, which ones do you feel led to pray for and what is God asking you to do to fight it? What difference in you and others will your prayer make?

How does Colossians 4:2-6 challenge your current approach to prayer and evangelism?

Discuss Charles Spurgeon’s quote, “What is more important: Prayer or Reading the Bible?” He then replied, “What is more important: Breathing in or Breathing out?” Do you see both as essential or one more important than the other?

PRAYER

Lead your group through the **P.R.A.Y.** method that Carlos taught us.

Pause - Take a second to understand who you are talking to. (Isaiah 6)

Rejoice - Thank God (practice gratitude)

Ask - Put your needs in front of him

Yield - Surrender to His Will.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege of coming to You in prayer. Help us to be steadfast, watchful, and thankful in our prayers. Open doors for us to share the mystery of Christ with clarity and wisdom. Guide our steps and our speech, so we may be a light to those around us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

B.L.E.S.S. UPDATE

Review the BLESS principles and ask if anyone has an update to share.

Begin with prayer

Listen to their story

Eat with them

Serve them

Share your story and the story of Jesus