

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Colossians 4:2-6

## LEADER'S STUDY

### Prayer With Thanksgiving

#### Colossians 4:2-6

#### What is happening?

Paul is writing to encourage believers to put their trust in Jesus Christ alone. Rather going toe-to-toe with false teachings that had arisen, Paul makes the truth of the gospel very clear and allows it to speak for itself.

He reminds believers to pray consistently and with intention, with confidence that God hears and answers prayer, and with thanks for His all He is doing. Paul then submits a prayer request of his own: that God would continue to give him opportunities to share the gospel right where he was—in prison. He didn't ask for relief from his affliction or freedom from his chains, but that he would be able to make the gospel clear to everyone around him.

Whatever our situation, we can be certain it's no accident; the Sovereign God has brought us here for a purpose. Whether we can understand what's going on or whether we can't, we can trust Him, and we can allow the tension of the moment to press us against Him, to seek His wisdom, to rest in His comfort. And when we see others going through difficulty, we can pray for them—and with them—that He would accomplish His good purposes through that difficulty. We can pray for the faith to trust Him and the grace to rejoice in every circumstance—even the ones we don't like.

#### Where is the gospel?

The gospel puts all things in perspective. Good times and bad are both temporary; what matters is eternity—and that is in God's hands. He sometimes allows difficulty into our lives in order to direct our attention Him. We can do that through prayer—not to plead our case before him (because Christ is always doing that) but to ask the Holy Spirit to grant us what God knows we most need. And when others see our faith, it will be a testimony to His amazing grace in every situation.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: Do I ever pray for something but then act as if it's up to me to fix the problem? Do I see difficult situations as entanglements to be gotten out of quickly, or as opportunities for God to work? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on this passage as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

**Some helpful scriptures:** Acts 12:5; Rom. 15:30-33; Eph. 6:17-20; Phil. 1:19-22; 4:4-13; 1 Thess. 5:18, 25. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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## INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Colossians 4:2-6  
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word  
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-  
for-thought perspective. (The New Living  
Translation is particularly helpful with this  
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your  
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the  
gospel. Look for how this passage  
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

## POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your  
group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer  
all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or  
confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of  
this letter?**

**How does this portion of scripture  
point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What parts of this passage are  
challenging to your current way of  
thinking?**

**What did you discover or learn about  
God and His character from this  
passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you  
relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and  
define them really clearly, then look at  
them in context with that definition.  
Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture  
today?**

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**How is God calling you to obey, based  
on this passage?**

or

**What is your "I will" statement?**

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of  
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share  
what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is  
often overlooked. If we can share it with  
someone else it means we really  
understand it, it cements it in our own  
minds, it makes us accountable to the  
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.  
Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we  
pray about and how should we pray?**