

LifeGroup Study SheetMarch 8th – Colossians: A Life-Changing Prayer

This guide is designed to help prepare you for your next group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

1. Have you ever had someone pray for you that you've never actually met? What would it feel like to know someone who is over 1000 miles away is regularly praying for you?
2. Do you find yourself asking how you can pray for others more often or telling others how they can pray for you?

Digging In**Read Colossians 1:9-12**

Pastor Jeff asked the question, "Do you have people come to you for prayer?" Are you known as a person who prays, or do you only pray when you need something?

"The key to life changing prayer is not circumstances but consistency."

1. Paul says that his prayer for the people of Colossae is to be "filled with the knowledge of God's will." (v.9) This verse says something profound about God's will. Not only does it not have to be a mystery, but we can have the wisdom and understanding to know God's will.
 - a. Read the following verses:
 - i. **Ephesians 1:7-10**
 - ii. **Romans 12:1-2**

How do these verses help you pursue God's will in your own life? How does that look in your prayer life? Does it change the way that you pray?

2. Paul's prayer for the church of Colossae is to "walk in a manner worth of the Lord." (v.10) Paul connects knowing about Jesus and who He is, to then living a life that reflects that relationship!
 - a. What things in your life hinders you from doing this?
 - b. How often is this your prayer for others? What is your prayer typically?

Read Ephesians 4:1-3, Galatians 1:10

- c. How do these passages give practical ways for a Christian to “live worthy?”
 - d. Do you see any of these virtues in your own life?
3. Pastor Jeff gave the illustration of how we often find ourselves praying. A lot of times our prayers sound like this, “**God**, would you **please** bless my son’s **life**.” Most of the time our prayers are switched to what God has asked us to pray for ourselves and others. How often do we pray something like this, “Let my son’s **life**, **please** you **God**.”
- a. How does this perspective on prayer change how you pray?

Read **Luke 11:1-4**.

- b. How is Paul’s prayer in Colossians similar to how Jesus taught his disciples to pray?
4. Paul gives 4 different ways to pray so that we can please God:
- a. By bearing fruit (v.10)
 - b. By growing spiritually (v.10)
 - c. By being strong (v.11)
 - d. By giving thanks (v.12)

How can you pray for someone as it relates to these 4 ways?

Taking it Home

- 1. Already this week the study of this passage has prompted several people to make adjustments in their prayer lives. What have you learned about prayer from Paul, and how will it affect your prayers?
- 2. I will commit to praying for _____ in this manner this week.

Praise / Prayer Requests

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