

Meeting the World

October 18, 2020



Optional: Each week during this seven-week series, open your meeting by having one or two group members share their testimony of how God saved them.

Open: What advice would you give to a new believer about sharing the Gospel?

Read & Discuss: Colossians 4:2-6

1. Paul asked for prayer that God would open a door for the Gospel (v. 3). How do we know when God has opened such a door? When have you seen this happen in your own life? What would you say to someone who doesn't share the Gospel because they're not seeing open doors?
2. Why do you think Paul, who spearheaded the advance of the Gospel across the Roman Empire, still felt the need to ask people to pray that God would grant him clarity in proclaiming the Gospel (v. 3)? How would you like others to pray for you regarding sharing the Gospel?
3. In verse 5 Paul says to, "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of time." In light of the context, what do you think Paul means? How has God helped you walk in wisdom toward outsiders in ways that reflects the Gospel?
4. In our current divisive culture, how might we ensure that our conversations are "gracious" and "seasoned with salt" (v. 6)? Is it our place to respond when we see other believers not speaking this way? If so, what advice would you give for how we could do this effectively?
5. As you look at this passage, what role does Paul expect God to play in our sharing the Gospel? What role does Paul expect us to play in sharing the Gospel? How should this both challenge and encourage us as we think about our own involvement in sharing the Gospel with others?
6. How would your attitude and outlook change if you left home each day having prayed for yourself along the lines of Colossians 4:2-6? How would you be impacted by knowing that others were praying this way for you?

Apply: How will you incorporate Paul's prayer and instruction into your life this week?

Pray: Ask God to grant us open doors for sharing the Gospel—and to grant us courage and clarity as we walk through those doors and speak about Christ.

This Week: In order to help you prepare to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 7 (pages 27-30) of *Just for Starters*. Then memorize Colossians 4:5-6.

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. (ESV)