

LIFE GROUPS—Study Questions 20, Week of April 19, 2026

Colossians 4:10-18 “What a Fellowship!”

1. “Fellowship” is mentioned often in the church. How would you describe it? Does I John 1:1-4 help our understanding of “fellowship”?
2. Who were the Jews who encouraged Paul in his imprisonment? vv. 10-11
3. What were the Colossians to do with John Mark, or Mark, Barnabas’s cousin? v. 10

John Mark had been on Paul’s first missionary journey (Acts 13). After ministering in Cyprus, he left (abandoned) Paul and Barnabas and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). We do not know what the exact issue was. But after this, Paul did not want to take Mark on any other missionary trips (Acts 15:36-40). There was “sharp disagreement” between Paul and Barnabas so they separated—Paul took Silas, Barnabas took Mark. God worked it for good (Rom. 8:28) and more ground was covered. But now, in Colossians some twelve years later, Mark was in Rome helping Paul. Paul now tells the church to welcome Mark (v. 10). Later, Paul said to Timothy (II Tim. 4:11) that Mark “was helpful to me.” There was reconciliation between Paul and John Mark. Someone has written: “If true believers cannot be reconciled, then either both or one is not in fellowship with God.” Do you agree?

4. What do we learn about Epaphras, a Gentile? v. 12  
What was his concern? Where was his heart?
5. Luke and Demas, in addition to Epaphras, are the other Gentiles (vv. 13, 14). Demas is not elaborated upon. There was no fellowship with him. His life was a downward course of disobedience ( II Tim. 4:10). Demas had deserted Paul, had “left him in the lurch.” What was Demas’ problem? What is the danger to be avoided?
6. On what note does Paul end his letter? v. 18 (Compare with Col. 1:2)