



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

### DISCUSSION STARTER

Ask your group, "How do you want to respond when someone is unkind to you with their words and attitude? How should you respond?" The Bible is filled with passages that point to what we say and how we say what we say. Our message came from one of those passages, Colossians 4:2-6. Before Paul says anything about what comes out of our mouth to others, Paul instructs about what we say to God in prayer. Ask, "What do you think prayer has to do with how we speak to others and respond to others?"

### DIGGING DEEPER 1

**Read Colossians 4:2.** Paul does not suggest that we pray but insists that we pray. Our prayer life is not supposed to be haphazard but intentional. We are to be devoted or committed to prayer and not just pray as a last-ditch effort to overcome problems. Ask, "Why do we struggle so much to pray like we should?" Paul includes watchfulness and gratefulness as two accompanying activities associated with prayer. Ask your group to discuss why Paul connects being watchful and grateful with prayer. Hint: The goal of prayer is not our happiness and comfort, but God's glory at work through our lives.

### DIGGING DEEPER 2

In Colossians 4:3a Paul says, "And pray for us, too." We often find it easy to pray for ourselves, yet God wants our prayer to extend outward to others. **Read Colossians 4:3-4.** Ask, "What is it that Paul is asking the believers in Colossae to pray for specifically?" One might think that Paul would pray that God would get him out of the actual prison in which he is incarcerated. But Paul is more concerned about the spiritual prison of those who have never heard the good news that Jesus saves. Paul seeks an open door to share Christ and gospel clarity when he shares the good news. Ask, "What are some ways we could be more devoted to praying for the spread of the gospel?" *Hint: There is a prayer guide for our mission team that is currently in Costa Rica. Go to the church Facebook page and look for the post and stop and pray for them using these verses.*

### DIGGING DEEPER 3

**Read Colossians 4:5.** Discuss the importance of how we live our lives in front of unbelievers. Ask, "How can we make the most of opportunities we have with those who do not believe? Where might those opportunities occur?"

### DOING THE WORD

**Read Colossians 4:6.** We have been looking at how salt is used in the Bible in terms of its value in preserving and purifying. Another aspect of salt is that it enhances flavor. Paul uses salt to describe the power of our words to influence others with the gospel message. Discuss how the concept of grace in conjunction with salt will cause us to have seasoned conversation. Ask, "What can we do this week to be intentional about our conversations with others, especially those who may be lost?" If we are to "know how to answer everyone," then we must be living in a way that causes them to ask questions. Ask, "Is the way you live for Jesus causing anyone to ask questions? Are you ready to give them the answer – JESUS?" **Be Salty!**