



Connect Discussion Guide

11.14.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Colossians 1:3-8

Key Scriptures:

“So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”

- John 11:41-42

“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:13

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.”

- Colossians 1:3-8

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.”

- Colossians 4:12

Message Highlights:

- Paul encourages us away from the demoralizing path of grumbling and into the restoration of grateful living.
- Your life could be transformed by allowing the Holy Spirit to foster a life of thanksgiving before God that others might be compelled to pursue Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- The altitude of our attitude is sustained by the depth of our gratitude.
- This year during ReThink Christmas, we have the opportunity to reach the unreachable through the Brown Box Project. This project will allow us to send Operation Christmas Child gifts to children in unreached areas across the world.

Conversation Starter:

As Tyler said, the goal of Wilderness First Responder training is not to be an expert in medicine but to understand the basics and then to quickly seek solutions before long term health consequences set in. How does this connect to Paul's encouragement to walk the path of grateful living amidst the fumbles, stumbles, mumbles and grumbles of our world?

Discuss the Message:

1. How might fostering a life of gratitude before God compel others to pursue Jesus as their Savior and Lord?
2. Read Colossians 1:3 again; what words stick out to you in this passage? What or who do you find yourself thanking God for most often these days? Is gratitude a consistent practice for you? If not, how can you intentionally engage in this practice this week?
3. How would you describe/define 'hope' based on Colossians 1:5? How does this hope connect back to the gratitude Paul and Timothy expressed? What can we learn from this expression of gratitude?
4. Do you know a prayer warrior such as Epaphras (Colossians 4:12)? When Epaphras wasn't ministering to and shepherding his tribe in person, he was hard at work on their behalf in prayer. If you are a prayer warrior or are close to someone who is, how does that impact your relationship with them? If the kind of prayer that is described in Colossians 4:12 seems distant or foreign, how do you think your tribe's community would deepen if each of you were devoted to struggling on each other's behalf in prayer?
5. Have you ever thought about gratitude as a means of serving others? Talk about this concept in light of this week's sermon and scripture focus.

Pray:

Father in Heaven, thank you for your patient and loving presence in our lives through both good times and difficult times. Thank you for the hope that you have laid up for us in heaven. Forgive us the days we have failed to live with deep gratitude for who you are and for all that you have done for us in this life and in the life to come through your Son, our King, Jesus. Holy Spirit, please give us the grace to walk in humility and abundant thanksgiving. We pray that through our demonstration of gratitude, the watching world might see your goodness, your faithfulness and your love and seek to experience new life in Christ. Amen.