

Strengthening Your Marriage

Colossians 4:2-6

Ice breaker-

Opening Prayer-

Update on workweek

***Col 4:2-6** Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

This section begins with PRAYER, then moves on to what to pray for and how to act!

Q I've read that it's important to talk to God about people, before we talk to people about God. WHY?

Verse 2-About our prayer life: How are we supposed to pray?

~Devote= earnestly, steadfastly

~Watchful= with alert mind, vigilant (not in bed with the lights off falling asleep)

~Thankful= think about everything the Lord has done for you already

*Don't just pray for something once. Only way we will see God at work is to continue to pray and have an alert mind/being watchful to how God will answer!

Verse 3 & 4-What is Paul wanting the Colossians to pray about?

~Open a door

Q Can anyone give an example of a door that has been opened for them after praying about it?

Q How can we tell when God has opened a door or presented us with an opportunity for the gospel?

~Speak clearly, pray for specific things so you know when it is answered

Q How often do you look for opportunities to turn conversations toward spiritual issues?

Example: This week I prayed for/with Alyssa for God to show her specifically how he talks to people. Mom's Dr.'s appt worked out, etc, BUT I had to have my eyes OPEN and ready to say. Hey Alyssa....look. God is showing you.....

Verse 5-Practical application

~Be wise in the way we ACT toward outsiders

-James 3:2-12 - we can't tame the tongue

Q What are some wise/unwise ways we can act toward those who do not yet share our faith?

~Make the most of our opportunities

-1 Thes 4:12 - we need to be a light to those around us

~Let our conversation be full of grace, seasoned with salt

Q What does this mean?

-Matt 12:34-37 - our mouths speak what is in our hearts

-Eph 4:29

God tells us why...

So we may know how to answer everyone.

-1 Peter 3:15-16

Q What are some signs that God is working in a person's heart and wooing him or her to HIM?

*We need to be thankful for a believing spouse.(Continue to pray for Stephanie's husband. I thank her for having courage to bring up this request)

Q How can we equip ourselves for these opportunities?

Psalm 141:3 - pray for the Lord to guard our tongue

Challenge:

This week pray for the Lord to guard your tongue

Pray specifically and watchfully

Daily pray for God to open doors for you to witness and follow through on those opportunities