

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WE PRAY FOR YOU
Colossians — Week 6

ICEBREAKER: When you are happy, how do you like to celebrate?

OVERVIEW: Most Christians don't pray. Not as they should. They don't wrestle in prayer. They don't cry out in prayer. They don't pray without ceasing. They don't pray with fervency. They don't have long seasons of prayer. They don't pray early. They don't pray consistently. But they should. Prayer is our lifeline. It is spiritual oxygen. Prayer moves the hand of God. It connects with God. Paul, the author of Colossians, was a man of prayer. He was given to much prayer. This week we are learning from Paul and from the rest of Scripture about how to deepen and mature this all-important part of our lives.

1. **Read Colossians 1:3.** What insight, principle, or observation from this week-end's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Colossians 4:2. Are you devoted to prayer? Explain.
3. Read Matthew 18:19-20. What does this passage teach us about praying together?
4. In Colossians 1:3, Paul wrote that his prayers included thanksgiving, not just petition. Do have a balanced prayer life, spending time in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, or is your prayer life unbalanced?

5. In Colossians 1:3, Paul wrote that he prayed for the saints in Colossae. This kind of praying – prayer for others – is called intercessory prayer. Why is it important to pray for others? Do you ever pray for others, or do your prayers mostly focus on yourself? Explain.
6. In Colossians 1:3, Paul's prayer was addressed to God, not Mary, and not to a "saint." Why is it important to only pray to God?
7. Read John 14:14. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?
8. What are some ways that you can improve the quality of your prayer life?

The Last Word: "What is prayer? It is an offering up of our desires to God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ." Thomas Watson

