

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SERVANT
Colossians — Week 14

ICEBREAKER: What advice can you give about how to conquer fear?

OVERVIEW: God wants you to use for His purposes. He wants you to make a significant difference for Him with your life. If we want to learn how to serve God effectively, we needn't look any further than the apostle Paul. Paul made a bigger difference for the kingdom of God than anybody in history. In this study of Colossians 1:24-29, we are following Paul's example to serve God in a big way.

1. **Read Colossians 1:24-29.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend'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. How does God want to use you?
3. Colossians 1:24 says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you". How can learning to rejoice in all circumstances make you more useful to God?
4. Colossians 1:24 says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you". Just like Paul, to make a difference for Christ you must suffer for the gospel. Stop playing it safe. Serve until it hurts. Take risks for God. Get in trouble for God. Stop being timid and be bold. How can you stop playing it safe for God?
5. Colossians 1:24 says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church." Paul completed in his flesh what was lacking in Christ's afflictions by proclaiming the gospel to people. He was devoted to evangelism. How can you become more devoted to evangelism?
6. Colossians 1:24-25 says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church. I have become its servant." Paul was committed to the church; he described himself as its servant. How does church commitment make you more useful to God? What does church commitment look like?
7. Colossians 1:28 says, "We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone." Paul made a difference by warning and teaching God's word. How can you help others learn God's word?
8. Colossians 1:28 says, "We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Paul's goal was not just evangelism, but discipleship – to "present everyone mature in Christ." Who are you discipling? How can you become more effective at discipling others?
9. Colossians 1:29 says, "I labor for this, striving." Paul made a difference because he was diligent – a hard worker. He worked tirelessly to serve God. How can you work harder to make a difference for God?
10. Colossians 1:29 says, "I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me." Paul was highly effective because he learned to depend on God's strength. What does it mean to depend on God's strength? How can you become more God-dependent?

The Last Word: The truth is what God uses to set people free, so we must speak the truth, no matter how dangerous or uncomfortable.