

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Devote Yourselves to Prayer
Stand-alone Sermon

ICEBREAKER: If you were a kitchen appliance, which one would you be and why?

OVERVIEW: The Bible has so much to say about prayer. When we pray, God moves. When we do not pray, God does not move. The health of your walk with God, and your experience of His power in Your life will always depend on the quality of your prayer life. In this study we will learn how to grow in private prayer.

1. **Read Colossians 4:2-4; 12-13.** 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. The word "devote" in Colossians 4:2 can be translated "always maintain the habit of prayer." Why is it important for us to do this?
3. "Devote" can also be translated "give lots of time and effort to prayer." Do you give lots of time and effort to your prayer life? Explain.
4. The phrase "stay alert in it" in Colossians 4:2 can also be translated "guard your prayers." What are some ways that we need to guard our prayers?

5. "Stay alert in it" can also be translated "watch for God's answers." Do you do a good job of watching for God's answers to your prayers? Explain. What is one answered prayer that you have experienced?
6. Colossians 4:3 says, "At the same time, pray also for us." We should not only pray for our own needs, but also the needs of others. How much do you pray for others? Explain.
7. Colossians 4:12 says that Epaphras "is always wrestling for you in his prayers." To wrestle in prayer can be translated "to strive earnestly in prayer." What does it mean to pray earnestly?
8. Epaphras was always wrestling in prayer for the spiritual growth of the Colossians. He was praying persistently for the same thing. How long should you pray for something?

The Last Word: "Prayer is a key which unlocks the treasury of God's mercy." Thomas Watson