

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of August 16, 2015

Colossians 4:2-4

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, ⁴ so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should.

New International Version (NIV)

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ 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. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Connection Questions:

1. According to Paul in verse three, what three aspects should prayer have?
2. Read Ephesians 6:18. What similarities do you see in this letter to the church at Ephesus?
3. The NRSV says "devote yourselves to prayer." The TEV says "be persistent in prayer." The Wycliffe translation says "be busy in prayer." What picture do these three paint for you regarding the importance of prayer in a person's life?

4. Why is it important to stay alert in prayer? Read Matthew 26:41. What did Jesus have to say to Peter regarding prayer? Is it hard or easy to stay alert in prayer?

5. Paul was imprisoned and yet was able to pray with thanksgiving. How was this possible? Can you remember a time when you were in a difficult situation but were still able to give thanks?

6. Is there something that you are praying for today? How can you have an attitude of thanksgiving? List at least three things for which you can be thankful in your circumstance/situation.

7. What three things does Paul ask the church to pray for him through intercessory prayer? Should we be praying for these as well?

8. If you feel there is an open door through which to share the gospel of Christ, would you feel comfortable in doing so? Why or why not?