

QUESTIONS

FOR DISCUSSION AND MEDITATION :

Read Colossians 4:2-6 again. In these verses, Paul is asking the Colossians to pray earnestly and watchfully, in the context of sharing their faith.

Do you pray for opportunities to share your faith? Are your eyes open for answers to that prayer?

What does Paul mean by asking that God would open a door for the word?

Don't you think Paul was already bold? If so, why does he ask for prayers that he would be bold?

What do you think it means to be wise in the way we "act toward outsiders"?

What do you think it means to always be "full of grace" in your conversations with unbelievers?

What do you think it means for your conversations to be "seasoned with salt"?

FOCUSED

ON IMPACT

RENÉ SCHLAEPFER
JULY 21 & 22

Colossians so far:

Chapters 1-2: The Sufficiency of Christ

Chapters 3-4: Grace-Based Transformation

Two common extremes:

(Cultural compromise)

(Cultural withdrawal)

How can I have an impact on my world... without being compromised by my world?

1. Pray _____

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.
Colossians 4:2-4 NIV

2. Act _____

Be **wise** in the way you act toward outsiders; **make the most of every opportunity**. Colossians 4:5

3. Speak _____

Let your conversation be always full of **grace**, seasoned with **salt**, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
Colossians 4:6

How does Paul himself model this? (See Acts 17:16-33; 19:37)

What does Jesus say?

“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.” Matthew 10:16

THE KEY: _____

“Lord, help me bless someone today. There will be someone near me -- in my neighborhood, or at work, or in my classes, or sitting right next to me. Someone searching. Someone hurting. I’ve found grace in my relationship with you and I’d love to share it. Help me plant a seed. Amen.”

RESOURCES to help you know and share your faith :

Ruth M Bancewicz, *God in the Lab: How Science Enhances Faith*

Justin Brierly, *Unbelievable: Why After 10 Years of Talking to Atheists I’m Still a Christian*

Tim Keller, *The Reason for God* and Making Sense of God*

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith** (Also check out *The Case for Christ*)

*Available at church book cart in the lobby



STARTING POINT

8-week group for those seeking faith, returning to faith, or anyone with questions about Christianity.

Begins 6:30pm Wednesday 8/19