

Read Colossians 1:1-12

1. Share a thought with the group that stands out to you from this passage of scripture.

After reading the text from Colossians 1:1-12 ask the group to share what they get from the passage. This may very well lead your group in a direction and discussion for a period of time.

In verse 3 Paul writes “we always thank God” regarding the believers faith and love for all the saints (v4). This reminds us of the source of faith and love and reminds us where our thanks should be directed for our brothers and sisters. Rather than thanking the brother, thank God for the brother.

2. How are you at thanking God for the blessings He has placed in your life?

I believe we often get hung up on thanking the individual for how they have affected our lives which is nice but frankly it is directed to the wrong person. We must realize that it is “God who works in you (us) to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Phil. 2:13) and therefore it is God and the power of His gospel that we give thanks to.

3. Who has God placed into your life for His purpose and glory that you need to thank Him for?

Let this lead you into a time to thanks and prayer as you share how God has placed people into our lives for His glory and purpose.

4. In verse 8 Paul speaks of their “love in the Spirit”. What do you believe love in the Spirit is referring to? How is that different than other love?

Love is a Spiritual Fruit. Love in the Spirit refers to love that comes from God, not us, but is channeled through our lives. It is God’s love acted out in our lives. Love in the Spirit is a love that goes beyond human ability. It transcends condition and becomes unconditional. It goes beyond our preferences and reached to all. Reading 1 Corinthisan 13:4-8 helps us get a handle on live in the Spirit.

5. The theme of this section of scripture is thanks and prayer for the fruit of the gospel. Based upon what you have read, what is the fruit of the gospel that Paul is referring to and praying for? (Look closely at verses 9-12)

There are many words in these verses that begin to reveal what fruit the gospel produces: Knowledge of His will. Wisdom and understanding. The ability for living a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing him. Good works, growth in the knowledge of God, strength of His power, endurance, patience, joy, thanksgiving, and a share in the inheritance of the Father.

6. In verse 10 Paul prays that God’s people may “live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way”. What does that look like?

Let people share thoughts of what it looks like to live a life worthy of the Lord and how we please Him in every way.

This week’s memory verse: Colossians 1:3

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.

Assignment: This week write a prayer of thanks to God for someone or a group of people that God has placed in your life and whom you desire to see God use them even more.