



Small Group Guide: Steadfast Prayer

Colossians 4:2-4

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting God to speak to your group and teach you more about prayer.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when someone else's prayer for you made a significant impact on your life, or when you saw God answer a prayer in an unexpected way.

Key Sermon Points

- 1. A steady prayer life is essential to having a steady faith.**
- 2. Prayer from and for others builds our faith.**
- 3. Prayer is essential to build the kingdom.**
- 4. Prayer aligns our hearts and minds with the supernatural.**
- 5. Prayer protects our hearts from temporary circumstances.**

Discussion Questions

Understanding Prayer as a Lifestyle

1. Paul instructs believers to "continue steadfastly in prayer" (Colossians 4:2). What do you think it means to pray "without ceasing" in the context of our busy modern lives?
2. The sermon mentioned "breath prayers" and Brother Lawrence's practice of God's presence. Have you experienced prayer as a posture of the heart rather than just verbal communication? What might this look like in your daily routine?
3. Why do you think Paul, despite his theological knowledge and intimate relationship with Christ, still asked others to pray for him? What does this teach us about humility and community?

The Power of Thanksgiving

4. The Israelites' story shows a pattern of complaint despite God's provision. How might starting each day with thanksgiving change your perspective on current challenges? What are 3-5 things you can thank God for right now?
5. Read Colossians 4:2 again. Why do you think Paul connects watchfulness with thanksgiving in prayer? How are these two connected?

Praying for Others

6. Paul asked for prayer that "God may open a door for the word" and that he would "make it clear" (v. 3-4). When was the last time you prayed specifically for boldness to share the gospel? What holds you back?
7. The sermon emphasized that "prayer from and for others builds our faith." Who in your life needs you to pray gigantic prayers on their behalf right now? How can this group commit to praying for each other this week?

Supernatural Perspective

8. In 2 Kings 6:17, Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened to see God's supernatural provision. What circumstances in your life might God want you to see differently through prayer?
9. Paul was in prison yet focused on the gospel going out rather than his circumstances. What temporary circumstances are threatening to have "ruling power" over your life right now? How might prayer change your perspective?

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- **What is one specific area where I need to develop a more steady prayer life?**

- **Who has God placed on my heart to pray for consistently?**
- **What bold prayer is God calling me to pray that I've been avoiding?**

Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to this week:

Individual Practices

1. **Start a Thanksgiving Journal:** Each morning this week, write down 3-5 things you're thankful for before making any requests to God.
2. **Practice Breath Prayers:** Create 2-3 breath prayers that acknowledge God's character (inhale) and make a simple request (exhale). Use them throughout your day.
3. **Pray for Boldness:** Each day this week, specifically pray that God would make you bold to share the gospel and give you an opportunity to do so.
4. **Set Prayer Reminders:** Use your phone to set 3 reminders throughout the day to pause and pray, even if just for 60 seconds.

Group Practices

5. **Prayer Partners:** Pair up with someone in your group and commit to praying for each other daily this week. Text each other specific requests.
6. **Corporate Prayer Time:** Dedicate 15-20 minutes of your next gathering solely to praying for each other's requests and for gospel boldness.
7. **Share Answered Prayers:** Create a group text or email chain to share how God answers prayers throughout the week, building faith together.

Scripture Memory

Colossians 4:2 - "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

Closing Prayer

- **Pray for each person's specific needs shared during discussion**
- **Ask God to teach your group how to pray**
- **Pray for boldness to share the gospel**
- **Thank God for the gift of prayer and access to His throne**

For Next Week

- Continue praying for the requests shared tonight
- Come prepared to share one way God answered prayer or showed up in your circumstances
- Read Colossians 4:5-18 (or the next passage your group is studying)

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for people to admit struggles with prayer
- Be prepared to share your own journey with developing a prayer life
- Have tissues available—prayer can be emotional
- Consider ending with extended prayer time if the Spirit leads
- Follow up with group members during the week about their prayer commitments