



January 3, 2010
Sermon Based Studies

Group Members Guide

Talking to God . . . A good thing—"beginning the new year afresh". Colossians 4:2-6

Text: **Colossians 4:2-6**

“² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (ESV)

Getting to know me

1. Have you written some New Year’s resolutions? What are they?
2. What are some of your best success stories (or worst failures) with New Year’s resolutions?

Into the Bible

1. What is the connection between being steadfast in prayer and thanksgiving?
2. In the last message from I Peter (5:8), we were cautioned to be watchful for the Devil. The same root word is used here to be watchful about our life of prayer (Col. 4:2). What would watchfulness about prayer look like?

3. Notice how Paul requests prayer for his ministry of outreach. Is his prayer for the unbeliever or for himself? How would this translate to your prayers for those who you know that are not believers?

4. Talking with others is the task of the church as a whole. All of us have the responsibility to take the open doors presented to us. There are five phrases in the last part of this passage that define how we should go about this. List them and discuss in your group what these mean for you individually and for us as a church body.

Application Questions

1. What is an area of prayer that you need to grow in?

2. Do your prayers look more like a grocery list or a thank you note? What would help you make the transition?

3. Some people are hesitant to pray in a group. As we mature in Christ, we should be willing to do that. Spend a few quiet moments thinking about what you can thank God for and then be prepared to share your prayer with the group as you all take turns praying.

4. Have the group share any suggestions they have found helpful for taking time to pray on a daily basis.

5. How ready are you to talk to others about God? What would you need in order to feel more confident?