

TEACH US TO PRAY

Week 5 Discussion Questions

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:3-14

Icebreaker:

Share one way you have seen God working or an answer to prayer you have received from God this week.

Read this week's passage (Colossians 1:3-14).

What stands out to you from the passage or sermon this week?

Recap: What is the purpose of prayer (especially considering what we've learned over the past three weeks in this series)?

The goal of prayer is connection. Prayer is our way of connecting to God, to strengthen our relationship with him, in order to grow in his likeness and image. We have union with God through Christ, and prayer is how we have *communion* with God. We speak with God, listen to God, and even sit in silence. It is not simply requests to God, but recognition of his Character, his work, and his presence with us. Prayer is praise, confession, adoration, supplication, lament, thanksgiving, etc.

Paul's prayer focuses on the needs and accomplishments of his community in these verses. List together the things you he prays for the people of Colossae.

Thanksgiving

Faith

Hope

Bearing Fruit

Filled with knowledge/wisdom

Walk in a manner worthy

Strengthened

Endurance

Joy

Deliverance

Praying to God for our community is an important aspect of prayer. This week, we are going to spend an extended period of time sharing prayer needs and then praying for them together. If helpful, use the prompts below for direction:

Thanksgiving: What are thankful for personally as well as reasons you are thankful for those around you.

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Faith: How is your faith? Does it need to be strengthened, emboldened, deepened, etc.

Bearing fruit: What fruit is being produced in your life? Pray that it would continue or increase.

Hardships: What hinders your faith or reveals your need for God?

Wisdom: Where do you need the counsel of the Holy Spirit and the recognition of God's will over your own?

Endurance: Where do you need God's strength to endure?

Joy: What truth about God can you cling to in your season?

Application: This week, set an alarm, and spend 5-10 minutes every day praying over your community and the needs shared here today.