

## FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

### PRACTICING PRAYER:

Use these scriptures to guide your prayer for unbelievers this week:  
Romans 4:17 + 2 Thessalonians 3:1.

Or, use the lyrics to "Graves into Gardens" as a pattern for prayer.  
*You turn graves into gardens, You turn bones into armies, You turn seas into highways, You're the only one who can*

### PRAYER STRATEGY:

In addition to our church overall, "adopt" a program in our church, or another church in our community, or another ministry to pray for that they become a consistent "open door" to the gospel.

### PRAYER STRATEGY:

As you meditate on and pray Romans 4:17, take a prayer walk through your neighborhood as you pray over the people who live there, or a lunch (or coffee break) prayer walk at the place you work as you pray for your co-workers.

### FOR YOUR GROUP:

Make prayer for a few non Christian friends or family members part of your small group prayer time each week.



### PRAYER STRATEGY:

Partner in prayer with one missionary family you have a heart for, or one people group or area of the world that God puts on your heart.

Our missionary prayer list is available to pick up at the Information Center.

## Leader Resource Guide

Date: March 6, 2022

*Praying As...*



## SERMON NOTES

Colossians 4:2-6

1. Open **DOORS**.
2. Open **MOUTHS**.
3. Open **HEARTS**.

For practical resources, tools, and books, visit [woodlandchurch.org/resources](http://woodlandchurch.org/resources).

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Why do you share your faith with others? What encourages you as you do it? What discourages you? What principles from the Ambassadors series can help you overcome these obstacles? How can your life group help you?

## CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

1. In relation to Colossians 4:2-6, talk about how each of these works to advance the gospel: prayer, watchfulness, thankfulness, open doors, closed doors or chains, wise actions, opportunism, graceful talk, salty talk?  
*This is a good opener to get your group talking about the main ideas of the sermon. Consider grouping them together into the categories given in the sermon (open doors, mouths, hearts) and talk about their interplay. As a follow up question: Out of the 3 areas of prayer for openness in the progress/sharing of the gospel (doors [opportunities], mouths [actual verbal sharing], hearts [receptivity]), which seems most common in your own prayers? Which may require more intentionality in your prayers?*
2. **In our role as ambassadors of God, why is prayer vital? What might be lacking in our ambassadorial role if prayer is missing? How does prayer affect our level of encouragement? ... our wisdom and direction? ... our patience and endurance?**
3. **If we are struggling to prioritize prayer, what might that reveal about the deeper condition of our heart? What lies might we be believing about prayer and how God interacts with humans? What truths do we need to lean on in order to persevere in our prayer life?**  
*What are some lies we might be believing? That God doesn't hear us? See Psalm 34:17. That he doesn't care? Psalm 34:18. That he's not able? Psalm 103. Whatever the lie, the truth that God is good, sovereign and engaged combats the lies. Psalm 33, 34, and 103 are rich with incredible truths about God, Jeremiah 31 and 32. Goodness, just read your Bible, you can find it on every page. Use this time to build your treasury of truths about who God is, who he says you are, and what he's doing.*

### **Potential Prayer Rabbit Trail:**

From Paul's prayers in Ephesians 1:16-18: 3:14-19; 6:18-20, what can we learn about our prayers for others (for example: those in our life group, for pastors and church leaders, for missionaries, other churches in our community)?

*God uses these prayers of Paul to form his people spiritually.*

*If your group is new to prayer, use these prayers of Paul in Ephesians as a model for your own prayers.*

*If you are a seasoned person of prayer, these prayers of Paul can still be used as a way to pray the very heart of God for yourself and others.*

4. When Pastor Brian mentioned "open doors" in the sermon, what open doors come to mind for you? Share some ideas and then commit to praying for opportunities to bring the good news into that space.
5. The message next week will be concentrating on how to 'share as an ambassador.' Take time this week to read, consider and pray through Ephesians 6:18-20 and Colossians 4:2-6 to prepare your mouths for action.  
*This is a great time to practice praying Scripture together in your group. If you have someone who is reluctant to pray, you can use this as an opportunity to show and practice how you can use Scripture to form your prayers; which is such a powerful way to pray.*
6. As you think about "open mouths" and "open hearts," read 1 Corinthians 2:12-14. The Gospel Transformation Study Bible notes that as someone accepts the gospel message, "this response is the result of the Spirit's work, who gives us true wisdom so that we can understand, rather than reject, the gospel." How should this reality impact our witness and our prayer life?
7. **What has helped you to grow the most in your prayer life? What obstacles to prayer do you feel now? In light of Colossians 4:5-6, what practices do you want to build into your life as you relate to non-believers?**

### **Practical Portion:**

In the practical portion of Pastor Brian's sermon, he gave several examples of how to incorporate the open doors/mouths/hearts ideas into our prayer lives. The "faithfully following" section below highlights these. Pick one or two ways to incorporate into your life this week.