



## Week 6: Colossians - Making the Most of Our Opportunities

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### FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the "Check-in" question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week's application challenge.
- ✓ Review the "Big Idea" to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week's message and focus your group's discussion towards a clear direction.
- ✓ Read this week's scripture passages together and guide your group through the "Discuss" questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week's message.
- ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in "Apply". Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.  
**NOTE:** You do not have to cover all the questions provided in "Apply".
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week's "prayer practice", which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

<b>CHECK-IN</b>	How have the key relationships you identified last week (in marriage, or parenting, or employment) developed or not developed over the past week?
<b>BIG IDEA</b>	<p>Live consciously towards what you are experiencing in Jesus and towards sharing him with others.</p> <p>Four ways are presented to help us consciously represent Jesus in our everyday lives with our everyday acquaintances.</p> <p>Be Prayerful. Be Opportunistic. Be Open. Be Wise.</p>

## DISCUSS

### Read Colossians 4:2-6 together.

We will be adopting some questions from a *How to Study the Bible* online resource to help us to interpret the passage. Supplementary questions follow each of the “big questions” in order to connect them to the sermon message. The beauty of using a set of “big questions” like these is that we can apply them to any Scripture passage. Choose at least one question from each question type.

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1. **What does this teach me about God?** According to verse 3, who is it that ultimately opens doors for the message to be proclaimed? Reviewing **Colossians 1:26-29**, what is the mystery that has now been disclosed, and what is the end goal of this message?
2. **What does this reveal about my sin (or the human condition)?** Paul asks for prayers that doors may be opened to proclaim the message. Discuss the different kinds of barriers (self or other) you may have encountered that keep the doors closed to open sharing of the message.
3. **How does this point to Christ's redemption?** What is gracious speech? How is gracious speech a sign of a life redeemed by Christ? What is the purpose of gracious speech in a conversation with those who do not yet know Christ?
4. **What is the one truth that I need to apply to my life this week?** Pastor Brian provides four different ways to represent Jesus in our everyday lives with our everyday acquaintances. Please examine them below and consider how you can apply one or more in your life this week.

## APPLY

How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?

1. **Be Prayerful, Be Opportunistic, Be Open, and Be Wise.** Using a measurement of between 1 & 10 (one being “need lots of growth” and 10 being “by God's grace, I'm doing well in this”) how would you rate your maturity in each of these areas?
2. In assessing your prayerfulness, how can you modify or enhance your **prayer** life to increase the number and variety of opportunities to share about Jesus? It may be helpful to evaluate your prayer life plans in terms of devotion, watchfulness, and thankfulness.
3. Our everyday circumstances might contain out of sight **opportunities** to talk about Jesus. After prayerful reflection, what dots might you now connect that could lead to an opportunity to talk about Christ? What opportunities could you take advantage of this week? Please discuss.

4. In order to proclaim the message clearly, we must **be open** to speaking about it. If we are sports fans, we may often talk about sports. Pet lovers often talk about their pets, fashionistas often talk fashion trends. Consider your openness levels with talking clearly about who Jesus is to you. What can you do to increase openness and vulnerability?
5. Reflect on the various areas of your life that cross paths with people who do not yet know Jesus. Would you consider your actions and behavior towards them to be representative of Jesus? Do the words that come from your mouth undermine or enhance the opportunities that come your way? How can you live **wisely** this week so as to make Jesus's teachings more attractive to outsiders?

**PRAYER  
PRACTICE**

**Recall your self rating on each of the four ways described above.**

**Pair up with someone who could also benefit from improving in the same area as you. Pray with them according to the corresponding area below.**

1. **Pray for open doors** to proclaim the message.
2. Pray for **opportunities** to share about Jesus to be revealed.
3. Pray for **openness**, vulnerability and the words to use when opportunities are presented.
4. Pray for **wise** choices in how we conduct our actions, behavior and choice of speech, so to fulfill our mission in sharing Jesus.