

Colossians 4

Discussion Guide

Pre-discussion Question

Do you have any experience doing evangelistic work? If so, describe your experience.

RSR: Read, Summarize, React

Read: Read through the passage silently or together or listen to it.

Summarize: Using your own words, summarize the passage. In this passage, what are the *one or two main ideas or goals* Paul is trying to express or accomplish, either directly or through example?

React:

Likes: Ideas/phrases you particularly like

Questions: Ideas/phrases that confuse you or bring up questions

Connections: Does this passage remind you of another Bible event or character or verse or something in the culture or in your own life?

Applications: What life principles do you see here? How can you apply this chapter to your own life? How can we apply this chapter to life in the Body of Messiah?

Specific Questions

1. Read 4:2-4. Though it is clear in the Apostolic Scriptures that Paul is often led directly by God and that God prepares the way ahead of him and his companions, nevertheless, Paul asks the Colossians to pray for his ministry. Why would he ask for this from the Colossians or any assembly?
2. Read 4:5-6? In his teaching, Grant connects these verses to 4 qualities of effective ambassadors of the Gospel. Discuss the following quote from Grant: "There is no such thing as discernment without love. Somehow love gives you x-ray vision into a person's heart." Do you agree? If you do, why would this be so?
3. Grant describes the cast of characters mentioned in chapter 4, including a faithful worker, a faithful companion, a faithful sower and prayer warrior, one who was apparently a runaway slave who found the Lord, a "church kid" prodigal who returned and a prodigal who didn't, one who was a scholar, and one in their midst who we know little of except that his Hebrew name was "Jesus" and his Greek name was "Justus." What are your thoughts upon hearing such a description of those who surrounded Paul? Do you find this encouraging? If so, why?