



STUDY GUIDE

How To Pray For People You Love

Week of November 27, 2016

Colossians 1:9-14

engage it

1. **Think back on a time when you were memorably excited about trying or starting something new. What fueled that excitement and energy? What were you most afraid of during those times?**
2. **When you begin a new adventure or new way of life, what is it that keeps you from turning back?**

unpack it

3. **Read Colossians 1:9-14. How would you describe Paul's view of prayer based on these verses?**

4. What is the significance of Paul reminding his readers that God qualified them to share in the blessings of salvation? What does this teach us about our own salvation?
5. Of the reasons given by Paul for thanking God for our salvation, which one speaks the most to you, and why? What is the significance of the reasons for being thankful?
6. Read Colossians 4:2-6. What was the goal of Paul's life, and at what cost? How would our community be different if we all shared Paul's drive?
7. Read 1 Peter 3:15. Why must we be wise and careful in telling others about Jesus? In which situations is it easiest for you to talk about Jesus, and in which situations is it most challenging?
8. How might persistent prayer help us stay sharp, alert, and ready to share our faith?

9. Read Ephesians 6:18-20. What are some of the most common excuses Christians give for not sharing the gospel? How would our prayer lives change if we saw ourselves (first and foremost) as those sent by God, on His mission to bring people to Him?

10. One of the most common excuses people give for not sharing the gospel is fear of people--we worry about how others will respond if we share Christ with them. Why do we find it intimidating to speak the gospel to others? What does that tell us about the condition of our hearts?

live it

11. What steps can you take this week to prioritize praying for people who need Christ in their lives? How might regularly praying for lost people change the way you approach your relationship with them?

12. How does a better understanding of Jesus' forgiveness in your life move you to develop relationships with people who don't know Him?

