

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Colossians 1:9-14

Paul took it for granted that men who knew God would pray; that men who lived for God would pray much, and that men could not live for God who did not pray much.

-E.M. Bounds

1. Praying for Spiritual Maturity

- We pray for knowledge of His will

- We pray for wisdom and understanding

2. Praying for Practical Application

- We pray for a worthy walk

- We pray for a fruitful walk

3. Praying for Enduring Strength

- We pray for God's strength

- We pray for joyful endurance

4. Praying with Grateful Thanksgiving

- Praising God for our kingdom citizenship

- Praising God for our redemption

Getting to Know You

1. Welcome back to your small group. We trust that you had a great Christmas. What was the best Christmas present that you got? What was the best present that you gave?

Into the Bible

2. Paul's letters give us an insight into his prayer for Christians. Read his prayers for the Philippians (Philippians 1:9-11) and the Ephesians (Ephesians 1:15-19a). Write down some things that are common to these two prayers and the one in Colossians. Are there things that you only find in one or two of these prayers?

3. The contrast between two kingdoms, here the dominion of darkness and the kingdom of the Son (Colossians 1:13-14), is found throughout the Bible. Use a concordance or search tool to find other examples and list a few characteristics of each domain. John 1 would be a good starting place.

Application

4. How wide is the circle of Christians that you pray for? Share steps you could take to expand that circle.