

Lesson 18

Colossians 4:2-6

Day 1

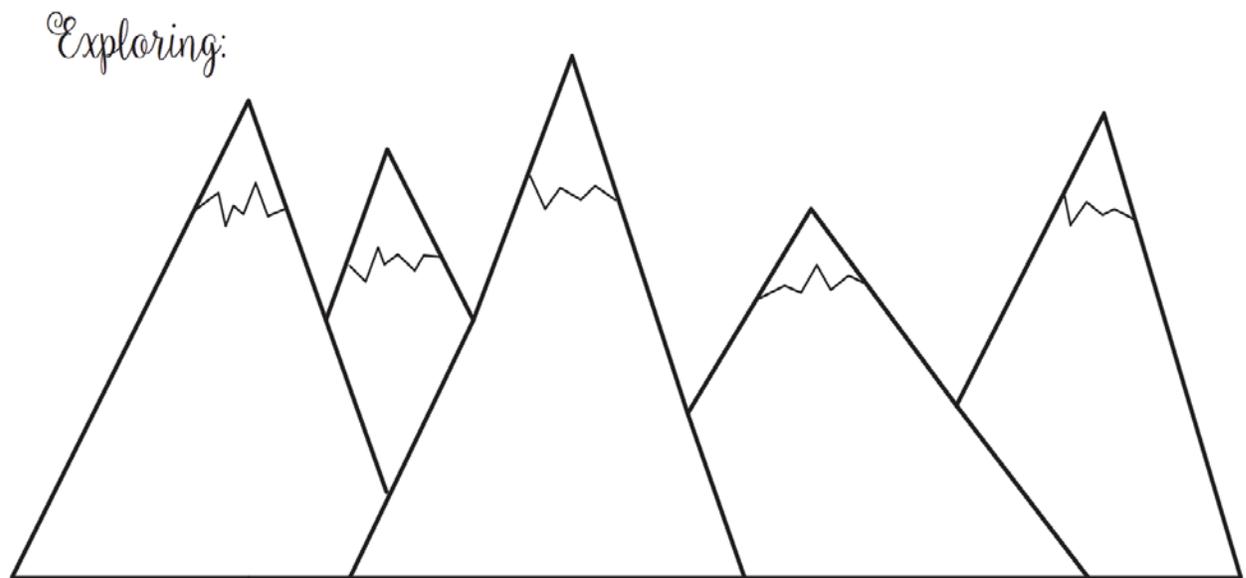
KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

1. In the box below, explain verses 2-6 in only one or two sentences. Think about how you would explain it to a 10 year old child. I usually ask myself, “Who is doing what, and why is he doing it?” This is usually enough to get the main point of the thought into one or two sentences.

| Verses 2-6 | Verses 7-18 |
|------------|-------------|
| | |

EXPLORING THE THEME

2. Look for the words: MINISTRY/MINISTER. Write down the verses where you find these words and what you learn about them.



Day 2

3. Look at Colossians 4:2-4. What is the main command of this section?
4. In which two ways is this command to be carried out (v.2)?
5. Define “devote” (*proskartereo* G4342) from Colossians 4:2.
6. Look up each of the following passages to learn more about what it looks like to “devote yourself to prayer,” and write down what you learn:

Deuteronomy 9:25

Luke 6:12

Luke 18:1-8

Mark 1:35

Acts 12:4-12

Matthew 26:36-44



GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

7. Using the examples from scripture, choose one way that you will strive to grow in your devotion to prayer. Write down the steps you need to take to make that happen.

14. You never know how God can use your gospel conversation to change the course of history. Consider Elizabeth “Bessie” Paget who lived from 1783-1863, and was a co-laborer of R.C. Chapman, George Mueller, and Anthony Groves.

It was Miss Paget who led Anthony Groves to salvation. Through her, Groves was freed from his religious devotion to the established Church of England. She accompanied Groves to Dublin, where he contacted the founding gathering of the "Brethren movement." It was Miss Paget who invited George Müller to preach for the first time in England.

Missionary and co-founder of Plymouth Brethren / The "Father of Faith Missions": Anthony was the brother-in-law of George Mueller. Anthony's sister was Mary Groves Mueller who was married George Muller. Muller said: "My brother-in-law, Mr. A. N. Groves, of whom mention has been made, as having been helpful to me by his example when I began my labours in England in 1829, in that he, without any visible support, and without being connected with any Missionary Society, went with his wife and children to Baghdad, as a Missionary."

In 1831, God was working to gather a remarkable group of believers in the rural "West Country" of England. These included influential sister, Elizabeth Paget, Benjamin Wills Newton, George Müller, Anthony Norris Groves, Henry Craik, and William Hake (1795-1890). All of them had been living in Devon at the same time, and were to play important roles in what became known as the "Plymouth Brethren."

(This information was summarized from <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=98110960>)

Take a moment to reflect on your own salvation story. Who was faithful in the little things – their actions, their words, their love for you – which eventually led to your conversion? Take time right now to thank God for them, and, if possible, thank them personally for their faithfulness to the gospel. 1 Thessalonians 5:11: “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

19. According to Colossians 4:3 and 4:6, 1 Peter 3:15, and Ephesians 4:29 what are the components of gracious speech?

20. Look up the passages below and note how our Lord used gracious speech:

Matthew 13:54-56

Luke 4:17-22

Luke 7:36-50

21. Does “gracious speech” mean never confronting or rebuking others? In what situations must our speech, seasoned with salt, sting? (Matthew 23:13-15, Galatians 2:11-14, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Titus 1:1-11)



GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

22. Write down some situations in which you are tempted to have ungracious speech with and toward unbelievers. This would include strangers who drive in other cars and work at fast food restaurants, and perhaps unbelievers who live in your home with you. What steps will you take to season your speech with grace?