**Focus this week:** Continue to focus on growing in prayer, depth, and vulnerability as a group.

**Semester updates:** The Fall semester of groups will be concluding at the end of the month with Worship and Prayer on November 28. Please invite all group members to attend worship and prayer then.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME (15 minutes)**

Be sure to plan out some way to implement casual fellowship time as people come to your group. After the fellowship time at the beginning of your meeting, have everyone find their seats and start off with an icebreaker. You can use one of the icebreakers from the leader resource page found here:

<https://lifewayresearch.com/2020/02/19/75-icebreaker-questions-for-church-small-groups/>

**Pow’s and Wow’s (a.k.a. “High’s” and “Low’s”)**: After you do the icebreaker, one thing you can do to start your group off each week is called “Pow’s and Wow’s”. Have each person go around and share a “pow” (a low moment from the past week) and a “wow” (a high point moment from the last week). This can also be a great way to learn how you can pray for one another.

**DISCUSSION (30 minutes)**

Start discussion by saying, “This past Sunday we began a new sermon series on the book of Colossians. The title of the sermon was ‘The Living Gospel.’ We saw how the gospel did a powerful work amongst the Colossians through the ministry of Epaphras. The gospel had produced extraordinary love toward fellow saints because of the future shared up that is guaranteed in the gospel.”

1. What were some things from the sermon that were particularly helpful or challenging for you?
2. Have someone read Colossians 1:1-14 again. The sermon was called “The Living Gospel.” When you read this passage what kind of language does Paul use that carries this idea of the *living* gospel?
3. One of the main aspects of the gospel that changed the Colossians was in verse 5, *“the hope laid up for you in heaven.”* What are all the reasons why hope is so important in the Christian life?
4. The main question answered in the sermon was, *“How did the future hope in the gospel create extraordinary love in the Colossians?”* The answer is found in verse 12 about how the future inheritance is going to be *“shared”* amongst brother and sisters in Christ. Why do you think a shared hope would create love toward fellow Christians?
5. The other aspect that created such extraordinary love in the Colossians is how the Father *“qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints.”* What does it generally mean to “qualify” someone or something? Why is this so important for understanding the gospel?
6. Have someone read Colossians 1:13-14. The verse says that we were *transferred* to the kingdom of the beloved Son. How would it change things if the verse said *transferring*, instead of *transferred?* What is the difference? Why does it matter?
7. How does the future hope of the gospel affect you today? What does it look like to let the future hope of the gospel compel you towards love for the church?

**PRAYER (20 minutes)**

Prayer is the most important thing you can do for one another. Take some time to specifically pray for one another and for Church at Bergen. Give sufficient time to ask how one another are doing and how you can pray.