



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 6 - Week of February 18, 2024

### Lesson: A MOUTH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**BIBLE VERSES:** Colossians 4:2-6; I Peter 3:15; Mark 5:18-19; John 9:4;  
2 Corinthians 5:20; Mark 16:15; I Corinthians 7:17; 2 Timothy 1:9-10

#### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What are you praying for these days?
2. Are there any foods that you absolutely would not eat?

#### DISCUSSION

*"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone (Colossians 4:6)."*

Today, we call sharing the gospel with other people by many names: evangelizing, witnessing, soul-winning, and testifying. When you hear the phrase "sharing the gospel," what images (positive or negative) come to mind?

Read Colossians 4:2-6 from the New International Version or the New King James Version. Paul wraps up the main body of his letter by encouraging the Colossian believers to devote themselves to prayer and to be watchful for the work God is doing in the world. He also requests them to pray that he will continue to be able to share the message of Christ to a hurting and lost world. This was a definite concern of his since he wrote this letter from a prison cell. Paul's challenge to the believers (and to us) is for them to open their mouths and boldly (yet gently) speak the only truth that sets people free.

1. What does it mean to devote yourself to prayer? What does this look like in your life?
2. How can you tell when God has presented an opportunity for you to share the gospel?
3. What exactly is the *clear and simple* gospel that Paul wanted to proclaim?
4. How proactively do you look for opportunities to turn conversations toward spiritual issues?  
What tends to get in the way of seeing these opportunities?
5. What do you think Paul means when he says that a Christian's conversation with an unbeliever should be *seasoned with salt* (verse 6)?

Think about the day when you gave your life to Christ. Robe yourself in that moment. Resurrect the relief. Can you remember?

1. What have been your experiences with trying to communicate your faith in Christ? What is your current practice?
2. How consistently do you pray that God will open doors for the gospel message to be shared?

3. What are signs that God is working in a person's heart and bringing him or her to Him?
4. What are some wise and unwise ways you can interact with those who do not share your faith?
5. How equipped or prepared do you feel when it comes to articulating what you believe?

### **Five Fresh Ways to Spread the Gospel**

1. Let God's love flow through your life.
2. Listen to people's stories.
3. Don't judge people; accept them for who they are.
4. Highlight what nature reveals about God.
5. Encourage questions rather than just giving answers.

The hope that God offers is too good to keep to yourself. Read Mark 5:18-19 and John 9:4. Jesus calls all believers to spread the gospel to other people. Use your mouth to make a difference. You can use your mouth to gossip, to criticize, and to withhold truth or you can impact others positively by speaking to them about the life-changing love of Christ. If you want to use your mouth to make an eternal difference, you must begin with preparation and prayer. First, make sure that you know how to give a reason for the spiritual hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15). Consider attending an evangelism class.

**Devotion:** Father, life is so short. Remind us daily that we have been given a great treasure and an urgent task. Make us wise in the way we act around unbelievers. May we be courageous, kind, and clear in our conversations.

**Journaling:** List the people in your life who don't know Christ but show signs of being interested in the gospel. What approach could you take with each person in talking about spiritual things?

**Life Lesson:** It's important to remember that we can use our tongues for ill or for good.

**Prayer Focus:** God, help me to make a difference with my mouth and carry out my assignment to spread the hope of Jesus!