

# Discovery Group - Gospel Living

## (6) Give an Answer

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: Col 4:2-6 & 1 Pet 3:8-17

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What are some characteristics of the kind of life that should provide opportunities to reveal Jesus?
- In your context, what kind of opposition is there to the Gospel? How can these be overcome?
- Based on these passages, how can you be more intentionally part of Jesus' mission in the world?

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide*: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Colossians 3:1 - 4:1    Philipians 1:12-30

## Give an Answer

**Colossians 4:2-6.** God is always concerned with more people receiving the gospel and becoming complete in Jesus. In this passage, through Paul, He exhorts the church to be part of this mission in three ways:

**(1) Pray.** Be devoted to prayer, and pray specifically for God to give Paul opportunities to share the gospel, and pray that he would do so clearly.

**(2) Live wisely.** Live among the unbelieving world in a way that points to Jesus. This passage comes right after Paul gives detailed and beautiful descriptions of how the Christian life is lived (see Col 3).

**(3) Speak.** Seek opportunities to speak words of grace, seasoned with salt. Speak acceptance and love and mercy. Speak the truth of Jesus. Give an answer to the questions that should arise based on how you live your life.

**1 Peter 3:8-17.** Peter has a similar message in this passage: Live in such a way that demands answers, and be ready to give those answers. In particular, Peter exhorts us to live in a godly way among those who are hostile to us or our faith. Repay evil with blessing. Seek peace. Do not be afraid of people, even if they threaten or abuse you. Instead, “revere Christ as Lord.” (3:15). This kind of loving response to the world will create opportunities. And when they come, “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (3:15). This may still lead to rejection or even persecution, but Peter assures us that even suffering for the cause of Christ is good. After all, Jesus Himself suffered for us (3:18).

In our world today, followers of Jesus are often ridiculed and accused of hatred and intolerance. Sincere people in the world see Christians as bigots and hypocrites. We need to live unexpected lives that reveal the truth. The message of the gospel is certainly demanding, but at its heart is love and mercy.

God clearly desires all of us to be part of His great mission. His mission is not just a big task to be fulfilled. It is people, and the Father has a passionate longing to welcome them into His family and see them become whole.

Thus, it is crucial for us to live the kinds of lives that make people ask questions. We should live in such a way that makes no sense to those who do not know Jesus. And in living this radical counter-cultural way, we need to be actively on the look-out for opportunities to share about the person of Jesus.