

SESSION 11

# Christ's relationships

#### **SCRIPTURE FOCUS**

Colossians 3:18-4:1

#### **BUILDUP THEME**



**UPLIFT OTHERS** 

God expects believers to honor each other in Christlike ways.

#### **MEASURABLE RESPONSE**

The learners will determine instances in which they can relate to others in a Christlike manner.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23, 24).

# Teacher Preparation

- Do you mix your faith and work? Does your workplace have rules that prohibit talking about religion? Should you mix your faith with your work?
- Read Colossians 3:18—4:1. Christ's supremacy should find its way into your work life even if it is covertly. Paul gave instructions to bosses and workers. He emphasized serving as to the Lord. That means a believer's life ought to be a strong testimony while he or she is at work. Paul gave instructions for family life too.
- Challenge your students to live like Christ in the home and at work. Encourage them to have Christ at the front of their minds as they interaction with co-workers and fulfill their roles as family members.

# Session Summary

Paul exhorted the Colossians to honor the Lord at home and at work. At home, the wife should submit to her husband, and the husband should love her unconditionally and sacrificially. Children should obey their parents, and parents must not provoke their children to wrath. At work, believers should honor the Lord by working diligently and honestly. Christian employers should treat their employees fairly, knowing that the Lord observes their management style.

# Session Starters

# **Option 1—Honor at Work**

#### Steps

1. Discuss the importance of honoring others in a work environment.

A CEO once commented that his multi-billion-dollar company was run by teens manning the checkouts in his stores. His business was successful because he made sure the teens stationed at his checkouts knew they were important to the company. He honored them, and they responded by honoring the customers they served.

Ultimately believers work for the Lord. No matter how their boss treats them, they should seek to honor the Lord in all they do at work.

**ASK:** How have you honored the Lord at work or in a work-like environment? (Q1)

ASK: How did others respond? (Q2)

2. Transition to the Bible study.

Paul wrote to instruct the Colossians on the need to honor employees (servants) and managers in a work-like environment. His instructions are a practical application of recognizing Christ's supremacy in our lives. He also gave instructions concerning relationships in the home. Christlike relationships are the focus of this study.

# **Option 2—Honor at Home**

# Steps

1. Talk about being honored in the home.

**ASK:** When have you felt honored by a family member in your home?

**ASK:** When have you honored a family member in a memorable way?

**ASK:** What might God think of our efforts to honor each other in the home?

2. Transition to the Bible study.

Paul gave practical instructions about what living in a Christlike manner looks like in a home and in the workplace. God expects believers to honor others, treating them with respect and genuine love. This session covers Paul's practical instructions.

# Bible Study

The Christian life is designed to honor Jesus Christ. Colossians 3:17 instructs us to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. The responsibility to obey this instruction extends even to our homes and places of employment—two of the most difficult places to say and do everything for the Lord's honor.

## I. Relationships at Home (Col. 3:18-21)

We are all aware of our culture's changing view of marriage and family. The Biblical portrayal of a marriage features a husband and wife—a lawfully wedded male and female. The Bible's portrayal of a family is that of father, mother, and children. The culture's view of marriage and family, however, includes several options. Obviously, believers have a huge responsibility to present the Biblical models as authentic, sensible, satisfying, and successful.

# A. Instructions for wives (3:18)

Paul gave one command to wives before giving two to husbands. He commanded wives to submit themselves to their own husbands.

**READ:** Colossians 3:18.

To understand what Paul meant by "submit," we need to understand what he didn't mean. He didn't mean that wives should be mindless robots activated by their husbands' voices. Nor did he mean that wives should keep their personalities hidden. Furthermore, he didn't mean they should serve as doormats with smiley faces, happily waiting to be stepped on. To the contrary, Paul esteemed women highly and commended many as examples of faith and dedicated ministry.

The Greek word for "submit" means "rank under." In the military, a major ranks under a general, even though he may be as good and as capable as a general. For the sake of order and progress, whether in the military, in the workplace, or in the home, there must be authority and submission. No one should conclude from Paul's command to wives that women are inferior to men. The principle of submissiveness relates to the order God has designed for marriage.

God established this order in the husband-and-wife relationship to picture Christ's voluntary submission to God the Father. Certainly, Christ is not inferior to the Father; He and the Father are coequal. Nevertheless, Christ came to earth to do the Father's will. He even embraced the cross after praying that the Father's will, and not His own, would be done (Luke 22:42).

**ASK:** Which virtues listed in Colossians 3:12–15 might a wife display in her submission to her husband? (Q3) *Holiness*,

compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness, love, peace, and thankfulness.

**ASK:** If a husband believes his wife ought to be a mindless robot or a doormat, what should a wife do? (Q4) Submit to him as long as he is not asking her to do something sinful. Pray for him. When appropriate, share her concerns with her husband. Depend on the Spirit for strength.

A wife will answer to the Lord for her submission to her husband. She is not responsible for how her husband chooses to fulfill his role.

**ASK:** What should the words as it is fit "in the Lord" (Col. 3:18) tell wives about the importance of submitting to their husbands? (Q5) That their submission is appropriate for them as believers, that it is a testimony that reflects on the Lord, and that the strength to do it is found "in the Lord."

Christian married couples need to cherish and guard their relationships against many media messages that scorn the Biblical model for marriage. Those messages can lead to hostility between a husband and wife, whereas following the Biblical model promotes harmony between them.

## **B. Instructions for husbands (3:19)**

Two important keys to a good marriage are cooperation and communication. If a husband obeys God's instructions, he will communicate well with his wife and cooperate with her in building a solid marriage.

**READ:** Colossians 3:19.

The husband has no right to boss his wife around, to disrespect her, or to disregard her interests and needs. The word for "love" reveals that Paul instructed husbands to love their wives selflessly and sacrificially. If a husband obeys this instruction, he will put his wife's needs and interests ahead of his own. He will find quality time for their relationship. He will tell her that he loves her, and he will show that he loves her. He will do things that please her. Responding to this love, his wife will find her submissiveness to him to be a rosy experience without thorns.

**ASK:** Does a husband's love for his wife include meeting her spiritual needs? Explain. (Q6) Yes. In fact, a husband's love for his wife is seen primarily in his helping her spiritually. He is the spiritual leader in their relationship.

**ASK:** How can a husband meet his wife's spiritual needs? (Q7) By praying with and for her, sharing time in the Word with her, providing wisdom to help her in making decisions, loving her, and demonstrating the character of Christ in relating to her.

God instructs husbands not only to love their wives but also not to be bitter against them. Neither a husband nor a wife is perfect. Each makes mistakes, and each needs to forgive and forget. Minor disagreements can become major problems if the husband develops resentment against his wife. Resentment will build over time and destroy a marriage. Love will keep resentment from setting in.

**ASK:** What little things can you do to contribute to loving relationships in your family? (Q8)

## C. A word to children (3:20)

**READ:** Colossians 3:20.

It pleases the Lord to see children obey their parents. Proverbs 13:1 states that a wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scorner hears not rebuke. Second Timothy 3:2 identifies disobedience to parents as evidence that we are living in perilous times.

Just as wives can perceive their ranking under their own husbands as an arrangement that pleases the Lord, so children can see that their obedience pleases Him. Furthermore, they can see from Paul's instruction that they should obey Mom as well as Dad. Moses wrote that children were to honor their father and mother (Exod. 20:12). And Ephesians 6:2 transports this command into the current era.

**ASK:** What might fathers do to teach their children to obey their mothers even when the father is not around? (Q9) Never put his wife down in front of the children, not even subtly. Teach them to respect her by example and by instruction.

# D. A word to parents (3:21)

Just as the wife's submissiveness to her husband is assisted by his unconditional love for her, so the children's obedience is assisted by the father's patience and understanding. He must not provoke his children to anger.

**READ:** Colossians 3:21.

By communicating love and respect, fathers can help their children want to obey their parents. On average, teens today spend considerably more time with electronic forms of entertainment than they spend with their own fathers. Some spend as little as five minutes a day with their dads. If Dad is unavailable, he should work on his schedule. If he is inaccessible, he should work on his attitude.

Knowing that a father can destroy his children by provoking them, Paul commanded Fathers not to provoke their children to anger lest they be discouraged. Dad ought to know the difference between encouraging his children toward proper behavior and crushing their spirits. Here are just a few of the things he should never say to a son or daughter.

"You're stupid."

"You will never amount to anything."

"You're nothing but trouble."

"You can't be trusted."

"All you do is cost me money."

"Nobody will ever like you."

"Can't you do anything right?"

"Do you have to break everything you touch?"

When a father constantly picks at his child, making mountains out of molehills, he makes his child feel worthless and incapable of doing anything right. In time, the child stops trying to please his or her father. The child is likely to reason, "Dad thinks I'm bad news. I might as well show him just how bad I can be!"

Wise parents establish and maintain reasonable rules, communicate them clearly, and enforce them consistently. Knowing that discipline is often a hard pill to swallow, they coat it with love.

**ASK:** What do you expect to see in a believing father's relationship with his children that you would not expect to see in an unbelieving father's relationship with his children? (Q10) *Patience and kindness; listening; genuine interest; willingness to do what the child enjoys, not just what the dad enjoys; instruction about anything and everything.* 

**ASK:** What is the difference between raising a good child and raising a godly child? (Q11) A good child is good on the outside. A godly child is good inside, not just outside.

**ASK:** What main goals should Christian parents have for their children? (Q12) To be saved; to trust (fear, revere) God; to obey Him even when no one else is around; to put others first.

# II. Relationships at Work (Col. 3:22-4:1)

Practical Christianity extends beyond the home; it reaches even into the workplace. Christian employees and Christian employers ought to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17). Paul wrote about these onthe-job relationships.

# A. Employee to employer (3:22-25)

In the first century, thousands of slaves made up much of the workforce. Many of them were believers. God had set them free from sin, but they were still slaves. Their masters controlled their time, their

Although the Bible didn't specifically command slaveholders to free their slaves, the whole tenor of God's Word opposes slavery. God values highly an individual's worth and the privilege of self-determination. In time, the Biblical message of freedom influenced social reformers to push for the abolition of slavery.

activities, and their livelihood. Discouragement and resentment could have weakened the Christian slaves' resolve to work hard. But Paul urged them to obey in all things their earthly masters.

**READ:** Colossians 3:22, 23. **ASK:** What connection do you see between slaves of Paul's day and employees today? (Q13) *The motivation (fearing God) should be the same. And the goal (doing it to please the Lord) should be the same.* 

**ASK:** What are some differences? (Q14) Employees today are free to choose what jobs they want to do, while slaves were often told what to do. Employees today leave work at the end of the day and return to their homes, while slaves were slaves all day every day.

Being an employee today is much easier than being a first-century slave. If Paul expected slaves to honor and obey their masters, then today's employees should have no trouble honoring and obeying their employers.

**ASK:** What will characterize the work ethic of employees who work both in the fear of the Lord and as unto the Lord? (Q15) *They will do their best all the time and with a good attitude. They will be grateful for their jobs and seek to glorify God through them. They have a servant's heart while on the job.* 

READ: Colossians 3:24, 25.

Paul cautioned slaves against working hard only when their masters were watching. The Christian slaves needed to realize that they were accountable to God. He sees all and rewards work that is performed for His glory (3:22–24). Those who slacked off on the job would face God's disciplinary action (3:25).

**ASK:** Evaluate the following statement: What a person does in carrying out his or her secular job today has no bearing on eternity. (Q16) The statement is false. Colossians 3:24 and 25 clearly teach that God will reward those who serve diligently and sincerely at their jobs.

Based on the teaching in Colossians 3:22–25, we can view our jobs as opportunities to honor the Lord. They may not appear to be ministries, but they can be ministries performed as for the Lord (3:23). If we work well because we want to please the Lord, our integrity will reflect well on the gospel. Fellow employees and even our bosses may acknowledge that our faith in Christ impacts everything we do.

**ASK:** What has helped you most to honor Christ at work or in work-like environments? (Q17)

# B. Employer to employee (4:1)

**READ:** Colossians 4:1. **ASK:** How could a believing employer carry out this command today? (Q18) Pay employees what they are worth. Give appropriate raises. Make sure working conditions are safe. Work to reduce stress in the workplace. Don't gossip about employees, especially to other employees.

Paul's words in Colossians 4:1 to believing masters carry strong implications for Christian employers. In the world of work, Christian employers ought to be role models for other employers. They should implement policies and programs that honor God. They should have reputations for integrity, tolerance, fairness, and productivity. Their handshakes should be as good as their word, and their employee handbooks ought to support their Christian testimony. They ought to show that they are good managers, whose goal is to please God.

Christianity affects all of life when we determine to do everything in the name of the Lord (Col. 3:17). Our devotion to Christ ought to influence our daily living at home, at work, and in every place we go.

# Session Application

#### Gather

Whiteboard and markers.

## Steps

- 1. Write the acrostics WORK and HOME on the whiteboard. Have students suggest helpful attitudes and actions that will help them represent Christ well in the workplace and home. Example for WORK: Willingness to be a team player; Optimism; Righteousness; Kindness. Example for HOME: Honesty; Obedience to God; Meaningful interaction; Enthusiasm.
- 2. Have students suggest steps they could take to strengthen their testimonies at work and at home. (Q19)
- 3. Have students identify in their minds people who try their patience at home or at work. Have them consider what they will do or say to relate to that person in a Christlike way. (Q20)



SESSION 12

# Christ's message

#### SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Colossians 4:2-6

#### **BUILDUP THEME**



BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

God uses believers as His instruments in reaching the lost.

#### **MEASURABLE RESPONSE**

The learners will determine what actions to take in bringing unsaved individuals to Christ.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4:5, 6).

# Teacher Preparation

- The American dream is to work all your life so when you retire, you can live where you want and do what you want. For some that means being on the lake with a fishing pole by 6 in the morning. For others that means sleeping in and sipping coffee overlooking an ocean view.
- ☐ Read Colossians 4:2–6. What picture of the believer's life does Paul paint? What is included in redeeming the present? What does Paul want for the Colossians' future?
- The American dream isn't God's dream for the believer.

  He wants us to be good stewards and be prepared for retirement, but He wants us to be mainly about buying up opportunities to serve Him and share the gospel with those who don't know Him.

# Session Summary

Paul advised the Colossians to pray constantly, staying alert and thankful as they prayed. He requested that they pray for opportunities for him to declare Christ, and he urged them to seize opportunities to represent Christ effectively.

# Session Starters

# Option1—Which Is Better, A or B? Steps

1. Discuss being frustrated by an eye test.

**ASK:** Have you had an eye exam and been frustrated by not being able to tell whether lens A or lens B is clearer? How did you resolve the issue? Did you arbitrarily pick one, or did you tell the doctor they looked the same?

2. Discuss the importance of being different from unbelievers.

When unbelievers look at a believer's life, they should have no trouble telling the difference between the believer, "A," and themselves, "B." If they can't tell the difference, then something needs to change.

**ASK:** What are two or three differences an unbeliever should notice in a believer? (Q1)

**ASK:** Why is living like a believer so important? (Q2) The unbeliever's life and where he or she might spend eternity could be at stake.

3. Transition to the Bible study.

Christ has chosen to use believers as His hands and feet in the word. So, Paul commanded the Colossians to walk wisely before those who are outside the faith. His practical instructions to the Colossians translate well to our lives.

# **Option 2—Evangelism Similes**

# Steps

- 1. Have learners finish the following comparison: Trying to evangelize without praying first is like . . . (e.g., neglecting to put gas in your race car on race day).
- 2. Discuss the importance of prayer and evangelism.

**ASK:** What part does prayer play in your evangelism?

**ASK:** When have you noticed the difference prayer makes when sharing Christ?

3. Transition to the Bible study.

Paul modeled the need to bathe evangelism in prayer. He requested that the Colossians pray that he would be clear in sharing the

gospel. Perhaps it is hard to imagine Paul needing prayer about evangelism, given his incredible track record of successful missionary trips and personal encounters. But Paul wasn't successful because of his personality or tenacity; he was successful because of his humble dependence on intercessory prayer.

# Bible Study

# I. The Believer's Prayer Life (Col. 4:2-4)

Neither the posture we assume when we pray nor the place we pray is very important, but the reasons for praying and the attitude we bring to prayer are extremely important. Paul shared several characteristics of an effective prayer life.

#### A. Constant (4:2a)

**READ:** Colossians 4:2.

Believers must not consider prayer a last resort but a constant resource. Believers should always be in a state of communion with God, ready to breathe a prayer for His enabling, a praise for His blessing, or a petition for His direction. But believers should also devote time to praying to God. Believers who make prayer part of their life's rhythm will find it easier to remember to do it.

ASK: When does prayer fit into the rhythm of your day? (Q3)

We should pray steadfastly—whether our circumstances are favorable or unfavorable. If we fail to pray in favorable circumstances, we may develop a false sense of security and then topple when the first wave of adversity strikes us. If we fail to pray when circumstances are unfavorable, we may plunge into doubt and depression.

In the heat of spiritual battle, Christians may feel like giving up on prayer, thinking it isn't working or God can't hear them.

**ASK:** What factors may tempt a Christian to give up on prayer? (Q4) A lack of results, past failures at praying regularly, and distractions.

God's Word reveals that God expects us to persevere in prayer. Paul wrote elsewhere that believers are to always pray in the Spirit with perseverance (Eph. 6:18). God doesn't promise immediate answers to our prayers, but He does promise our prayers will have great power whether we can see them working or not (James 5:16).

**TESTIMONY:** What has perseverance in prayer accomplished in your life? (Q5)

### **B. Alert (4:2b)**

Paul continued with his instructions concerning prayer, commanding the Colossians to be alert (Col. 4:2).

**ASK:** What examples come to mind when you think of being alert? (Q6)

Constant praying is enhanced by our staying alert to what is happening around us. Jesus told His disciples to watch and pray so they wouldn't give in to temptation (Matt. 26:41). Peter wrote that the believer is to be sober and vigilant because the devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking to devour those who aren't alert (1 Pet. 5:8). When Nehemiah and his workers were rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, they faced overt and covert opposition. Nehemiah's enemies conspired to fight against Jerusalem to hinder the rebuilding effort (Neh. 4:8). How did Nehemiah and his fellow Jews respond to this crisis? They prayed to God and stayed alert for any sign of enemy attacks (4:9).

#### C. Thankful (4:2c)

Paul was under house arrest when he wrote Colossians, but he was on top of his circumstances. His prayers were characterized by gratitude, not grumbling. From a heart grateful to God for His guidance and preservation, Paul instructed the Colossians to pray and watch with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2). Paul instructed the Philippians to pray with thanksgiving when they faced anxiety that threatened to unsettle their lives. He promised the peace of God would guard their hearts and minds from overwhelming anxiety (Phil. 4:7, 8).

**READ:** Philippians 4:7, 8. **ASK:** When have you experienced the peace of God after praying to Him with thanksgiving? (Q7)

**ASK:** Why is giving thanks to God an essential part of making requests to God? (Q8) *Giving thanks to God before He answers our prayers expresses our trust both in His character and in His ability to answer our prayers.* 

# D. Specific (4:3, 4)

Think of the book of Colossians as a missionary letter. Paul was a missionary to the Gentiles, and he was under house arrest in Rome. Knowing the importance of prayer, he asked the Colossians to pray for him.

**ASK:** Put yourself in Paul's position. What might be the first personal prayer request you would share with fellow believers? (Q9)

**READ:** Colossians 4:3.

Paul wanted the Colossians to pray specifically that he would have

Paul's prayers abounded with thanksgiving. See Romans 1:8, 1 Corinthians 1:4, Ephesians 1:15 and 16, Philippians 1:3, Colossians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 2 Timothy 1:3, and Philemon 4. evangelistic opportunities and that he would use them wisely. Most believers in Paul's shoes would ask God to work to release them from prison.

**ASK:** Why are most prayer requests at a typical prayer meeting about physical needs instead of spiritual needs? (Q10) We all have a desire to avoid or escape troubling circumstances. We also know that God can deliver us from physical problems.

Perhaps when believers pray, they should ask for a measure of God's strength to endure their trials, for God to be glorified through their trials, and for their testimonies to provide a strong witness before the lost. Those requests might be more in line with what God wants to accomplish through the trials.

Our prayers for missionaries and for others should be specific too. It is insufficient to simply pray that the Lord will "bless our missionaries and be with them." We should learn from our missionaries what their specific needs are and then pray for those needs.

**ACTIVITY:** Organize the class into three teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil and ask the teams to list the missionaries and mission organizations your church supports. Beside each name, they should write one specific prayer need associated with the missionary or organization.

**ASK:** How did your team do?

**ASK:** What might we do to be better acquainted with the needs of our missionaries?

The experience of being incarcerated for preaching Christ had not dulled Paul's taste for evangelism. It seems to have enhanced it. Paul longed to reach many more people for Christ. Before being arrested and put under house arrest, he testified that he was ready to preach the gospel to those in Rome (Rom. 1:15). He could not have known then that he would preach at Rome while under house arrest. God's ways may lead us, too, down unexpected paths to opportunities for witnessing.

**READ:** Matthew 9:36–38; Colossians 4:4. **ASK:** Instead of praying for people to get saved, what might be more appropriate and effective prayer requests regarding the lost? (Q11)

**READ:** Romans 10:14, 15; Matthew 28:19, 20. **ASK:** What do you learn about God's expectations of you from these passages? (Q12) That believers would be bold to speak, and that God would open doors for them to share the gospel.

Paul wanted to make the best of each evangelistic opportunity by communicating the gospel clearly and faithfully. He realized that he was

God's witness at that particular place and in the midst of that particular group of people. He didn't want to ruin his opportunity, so he asked people to pray for him.

## II. The Believer's Public Life (Col. 4:5, 6)

Prayer fuels a consistent Christian lifestyle. Having exhorted his readers to pray, Paul urged them to live right.

## A. Walk wisely (4:5)

**READ:** Colossians 4:5.

The Colossian believers needed to conduct themselves wisely because they lived in a pagan environment. They could not afford to lower their standards if they sincerely wanted to penetrate their society with the light of the gospel. Their pagan neighbors would not believe that Christ had made a credible difference in their lives unless they observed that difference in their walk and talk. Today, as well, unbelievers dissect our behavior and our words as they look for evidence that Christ has indeed changed our lives. If the evidence is present, opportunities to share the gospel will follow. In this way, we will be making the best use of our time (Col. 4:5).

**ASK:** What will a believer who is redeeming the time do to get the most out of the opportunities he or she must witness every day? (Q13) Make plans to spend time with lost neighbors and family members; practice sharing his or her testimony; develop a plan for witnessing; take any evangelism training available to him or her; pray for opportunities and boldness.

# B. Talk wisely (4:6)

**READ:** Colossians 4:6.

Non-Christians observe our walk and listen to our talk. They should see integrity and goodness in our walk and hear wholesome and helpful words in our talk. If we practice what we preach, we may create an audience for the gospel.

Salt enhances the flavor of food. It also preserves food. When we speak, our words should be in good "taste" and contrast sharply with the corrupt language of so many non-Christians. Also, we ought to season our evangelistic words to fit the taste of our audience. One method of presenting the gospel may appeal to one unbeliever but not to another. We need to know how to answer every person.

**TESTIMONY:** What circumstances in your life or in the lives of unbelievers have opened doors for you to share about the hope that is in you? (Q14)

Christians are outsiders in the world but insiders in God's family. Colossians 4:5 emphasizes the fact that non-Christians are outside God's family, outside the fold, and outside the church. Unless a non-Christian trusts in Christ, he or she will be eternally outside Heaven and inside the Lake of Fire.

A salt lake near Colosse supplied the city and region with salt.

A young pastor, eager to make his first sermon a memorable one, shared a few of his sermon ideas with one of the deacons. "I plan to confront hypocrites, gossips, and lukewarm Christians," he announced.

Solemnly the deacon informed the pastor that some rather influential church members fell into those categories. "It might be best, Pastor," the deacon advised, "to preach against witch doctors. There isn't one of them within four thousand miles of here."

The apostle Paul wasn't one to mince words or to overlook the fact that believers should lead a lifestyle far different from that of the unregenerate. His words in Colossians 4:2–6 may convict us, but they were written for our good and for the sake of the lost.

# Session Application

#### **Gather**

Small chain clipped into segments of three links (optional).

#### Steps

- Remind your learners that they should pray constantly with thanksgiving. Toss a tennis ball to a learner, and have that learner mention one thing he or she will give thanks for when praying. That learner will toss the ball to another learner for his or her response, and the activity should continue until it lags or until every learner has participated.
- 2. Students record the name of a person to whom they want to witness. (Q15)
- 3. Have students consider what they will do to connect God with the unbeliever they named. Direct them to the list under question 16.
- 4. If possible, clip a small chain into sections of three links each. Give a three-link section to each of your learners as they leave as a reminder to fulfil their commitments to do their part in reaching the lost for Christ. They are the middle link between God and the unsaved person.

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