**Colossians 4:2-6**

I. Introduction

A. What story do you find yourself in?

B. One of our goals on Sundays is to remind ourselves of God’s story and relocate ourselves within his story. It’s a story of God reconciling a people for himself and sending that people out to offer that reconciliation to others (see Col 1:19, 3:11, 4:5-6)

C. We are called to be a sent people

1. God sends particularly gifted and passionate evangelists like Paul

2. God sends ordinary Christians like the Colossians

II. How do we live as a sent people?

A. Pray for opportunities (v. 2-4)

1. We pray for an “open door” (v. 3)

a. = God working in situations and hearts to create an unusual openness and receptivity to the gospel

b. God can use a wide variety of things to create open doors (tragedy, life transition, spiritual questioning, etc.)

c. Unless God opens a door, none of our strategies and efforts will bear any fruit.

2. We pray with devotion, watchfulness, and thankfulness (v. 2)

a. We commit to regular and intentional pray for those in our lives who don’t know Jesus

b. Sometimes having a system is helpful (notecards or prayer walks, etc.)

3. Imagine if we all started praying this way?

a. God would start opening doors (he loves to respond to his people’s prayers)

b. God would open our eyes to the doors he’s been opening all along

B. Make the most of the opportunities God provides (v. 5-6)

1. Use wisdom and discernment in the times you have with non-believers, recognizing those moments as unique opportunities

2. Speak in ways that are conducive to that opportunity

a. “Full of grace and seasoned with salt”

1. Imagine we are offering people a meal (=the gospel) and we want to make that meal as flavorful and tasty as possible

2. Examples: avoid crude language and subjects, grateful speech, humble speech, encouraging speech, inquisitive speech

b. “That you may know how to answer each one”

1. Each person and situation is unique. Evangelism is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. He requires loving people, listening to them, and responding in personal ways to their needs.

2. We need to equip ourselves to think through some of the big life questions so that we are confident to navigate these conversations (topics such as gender and sexuality, suffering and evil, hell, the exclusivity of Jesus, faith and science, etc.)

III. Conclusion

A. Notice Jesus’ heart in Matthew 9:36-38

B. May he send us out as laborers into his harvest

**Discussion Questions**

1. What is the biggest barrier for you when it comes to engaging those who don’t know Jesus with the truth of Christianity?

2. What one idea struck you most from Sundays passage and message?

3. Consider your life of prayer as it relates to people who don’t know Jesus. In light of this passage, what is God calling you to do in that regard, and what would that look like specifically for you?

4. Consider Paul’s call to make sure our speech is gracious and seasoned with salt. Several examples were given of “salty speech.” As you consider your own life is there anything specific you’d like to work on when it comes to your speech (it might be avoiding certain things or it might be focusing more on certain things).