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## BELONG

1. As a group discuss a times when you purposefully sought out a conversation with someone you did not know (well). What was the nature of the talk (general, spiritual, directions, other)? Have there been times when you unexpectedly blessed through these conversations? If so, how?

## GROW

Select a person to read Colossians 3:12-17 and Colossians 4:1-6.

1. In the chapter 3 verses, Paul informs his readers of “what” or “whom” they are – he tells them they are:

a. Chosen (v.12) i. Take turns sharing what this really means to you? Consider the context of the life before and even since receiving salvation. ii. Discuss the significance of this reality against the real life experiences people have endured with being “chosen” or picked last onto life’s team.

b. Forgiven (v.13) i. Paul offers no out for us with regard to our call to forgive others....discuss if/why this is difficult for you. Discuss as a group how this is countercultural to today’s societal norms? At our very core, what is it that prevents us from offering complete forgiveness to others? ii. Discuss the impact of being wholeheartedly forgiven by someone in your life?

c. At Peace (v.15) i. Paul encourages his readers to let the peace that has been given to them in turn control their hearts. Discuss what the Lord’s peace looks like or sounds like if the life of a believer? Is it sinful for a Christ follower to be in a season of anxiousness (does this mean a lack of faith)?

Why or why not?

2. In the chapter 4 verses, Paul uses words in his instructions that clearly indicate an active participation in the daily grind of community!

a. Walk in Wisdom Toward....(v.5) i. Steps forward are necessary to go towards something or someone. Discuss if the reality of the chapter 3 verses Paul previously exhorted them with should fuel their action...and of course ours.

b. The “target” of their walking on wisdom is “outsiders”....discuss who are outsiders in your circle of influence. Share when it is hard to take these steps. What has helped you overcome this difficulty or what still prevents you? i. Discuss what issues in today’s cultural landscape the church has successfully engaged outsiders. What has the church not engaged well in? ii. Discuss those cultural issues that you have had difficulty discussing with outsiders. When you have had success?

c. Time is of the essence! Paul exhorts them to these actions in order to “make the most of the time” i. Discuss in the context of Paul’s instructions why he would add this urgency? Share the impact of urgency you have experienced in living out community with others.

d. Watch what you say AND how you say it! (v.6) i. A Jesus follower is to have speech marked by grace. In the context of verse 5, why is this such a critical point as we walk towards outsiders in daily comings and goings? Share experiences where you have been blessed by this and times when you wish you could have said things differently.

## REACH

In the Chronicles Narnia, The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, Aslan (Christ figure) walks toward what will become his sacrifice on the ceremonial stone. He encounters Susan and Lucy who fear something is wrong and Aslan comforts them (and himself!) saying, “I am sad and lonely. Lay your hands on my mane so that I can feel you are there and let us walk like that”. Discuss the reality of the hurting world (outsiders and insiders) and the need to simply walk towards them, speaking words of grace, and simply letting them know you are there....how might the world change? Your relationships? Your influence?