

“Get Connected” Interactive Discussion Guide

This Week’s Core Virtue—Patience

I take a long time to get agitated and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly. Proverbs 14:29 (NIV)

SERVICE Focus: Spiritual Formation

We will assess regularly our own personal development as disciples of Jesus Christ, affirm our strengths and confess our struggles to one another, and set personal goals for our growth in Christ.

Option 1—Growth Group Study: Colossians 1:1-14

(Plan 30 minutes for your “study time” by focusing on the * questions. If you need to fill out or add to your discussion, select other questions. However, be sure to leave time for “SERVICE” and prayer.)

Open It

1. How many cards and letters do you usually receive at Christmas?
2. When was the last time you received a letter from a stranger?
3. *When was the last time you received a letter that really cheered you up?

Explore It

4. Who wrote the letter to the Colossians? ([1:1](#))
5. Who was with Paul when he wrote this letter? ([1:1](#))
6. How did Paul address the Colossian Christians? ([1:2](#))
7. How did Paul greet his audience? ([1:2](#))
8. *Why did Paul offer prayers of thanksgiving for the Colossians? ([1:3-4](#))
9. From what source did the believers’ faith and love spring? ([1:5](#))
10. What did Paul stress about the gospel? ([1:5-6](#))
11. Who taught the gospel to the Colossians? ([1:7](#))
12. How did Paul describe Epaphras? ([1:7](#))
13. What did Epaphras tell Paul and Timothy about the Colossians? ([1:7-8](#))
14. *What was Paul’s primary prayer for these Christians? ([1:9](#))
15. *What results did Paul want for the Colossians? ([1:10](#))
16. How could the church at Colosse have spiritual strength? ([1:11-12](#))
17. How does God enable believers to share in His inheritance? ([1:12-14](#))

Get It

18. What do you find appealing about the way Paul started his letter to the Colossians?
19. *Why did Paul praise a group of Christians he had never met?
20. How are the results of faith, love, and hope evident in your life?
21. How is the gospel bearing fruit in your church?
22. *What can we learn about praying for others from Paul’s prayers for the Colossians?
23. If Paul were to write you a personal letter, what might he say to you?

Apply It

24. What is one way you can improve your prayer this week?
25. What missionaries can you pray for on a regular basis over the next month?
26. *To whom can you write an encouraging letter sometime during the next week?

Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon

- What did you like?
- What did you not like?
- What did you not understand?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away?

Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?