



Dig Deeper @Home – “Letters to Finland”

Complement to lesson on 06/20/21 – “Letter to Finland from Franco Salvatori”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Would you rather fight a chicken sized lion, or a lion sized chicken?
2. What are one or two things that you always thank God for when you pray?

MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

READ Colossians 1:3-14

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read this passage? What sticks out to you?
 - a. What general observations can you make? Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
2. How does this passage point to Jesus?
3. What can we learn about either God or the state of humanity through this passage?
4. Who was Epaphras? What can we learn about Epaphras from this passage or the other places he is mentioned in Scripture? (See also Colossians 4:12-13, Philemon 1:23)
 - a. Is there an “Epaphras” in your life? Someone who was influential in teaching you the gospel and faithful to support you in prayer? Could you be an “Epaphras” for someone else?
5. Colossians 1 says that faith and love “spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven,” and takes note that the gospel is “bearing fruit” in the lives of those it reaches. What fruit have you seen in your life as a result of the gospel? In others lives? (Read Galatians 5:22-23 for some ideas!)

Experiential activity – “I always thank God for you...”

How encouraging it must have been to receive a letter letting you know that someone has taken note of your faith in Christ and is faithfully praying for you!

This week, pick someone whose faith you have witnessed growing and “bearing fruit” and intentionally pray for them each day, using the words of Colossians 1 as a guide. But don’t stop there... let them know you are doing it! Tell them in person, send them a text or email, or maybe even go old school and write them a letter. You’d be surprised how much encouragement someone can receive knowing someone is praying that they will “be filled with the knowledge of (God’s) will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding!”

If you are struggling to identify someone to choose, perhaps pick someone new to the faith, or return the favor to the spiritual influence you identified earlier in question #4!

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Fullness of God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb7SCPGnRRA>

No Longer Slaves - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

The Glorious Unseen – The Hope That Lies in You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1J2mKxRUBo>

O Brother Man, Fold to Thy Heart - (Mennonite Hymnal #435)

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Father, thank you for removing my heart of stone and replacing it with a heart of flesh. Guide me by your indwelling Spirit to walk in your decrees and obey your laws. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Shape me into what you would have me be, and may my life be an open letter to all who cross my path so that I may be a faithful witness to Jesus, my Lord and King. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

Amen.