

Greater Mission: Advancing the Gospel Together – Week 4

Key Passages Colossians 1:24–29

BELONG

ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

If you had to give up one everyday comfort for a week to focus on prayer or service, what would it be and why? (Think: phone, favorite snack, TV, etc.)

Leader Notes: This question allows for lighthearted responses while touching on the concept of choosing spiritual priorities over worldly comforts. Emphasize that, as Pastor Danny reminded us, our sacrifices are not wasted—they are part of God’s plan to advance the gospel and unite us in Christ.

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud Colossians 1:24-29.

The Joy and Purpose in Sacrifice. In Colossians 1:24 the Apostle Paul wrote, “I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake.” Pastor Danny used this to teach that We sacrifice not because it is easy, but because the work of advancing the gospel brings us a deep, abiding joy.

1. In what ways have you experienced joy amid sacrifice in your life?

Leader Note: Encourage sharing about moments when hardship eventually led to personal or spiritual breakthroughs. Sample Answer: "Even though it was hard to give up some comforts, I later saw how that sacrifice opened doors for ministry and personal growth."

2. Pastor Danny emphasizes that our suffering—our labor, toil, and even our struggles—is a vital part of the gospel mission. How does this perspective challenge or encourage you today?

Leader Note: Prompt participants to reflect on how seeing their struggles as purposeful can transform their attitude toward difficulties. Sample Answer: "It challenges me to view every trial as an opportunity to lean on God’s strength, knowing that my efforts contribute to a larger, eternal mission."

Advancing the Gospel Together. Verses 26–27 remind us that the gospel is advanced through generations, across people groups, and through our collective effort. What does “advancing the gospel” look like in your daily life?



Leader Note: Encourage practical examples such as small acts of kindness, intentional conversations about faith, or participation in community outreach. Sample Answer: "I see it in sharing a word of encouragement with a neighbor or supporting church initiatives that serve the community."

Unity and the Power of Christ. In Colossians 1:27–29 we learn that our unity in Christ—not our own strength—drives our mission. Pastor Danny reminded us that “His energy is at work in us.” Share a moment when you felt empowered by Christ to overcome challenges?

Leader Note: Prompt members to share testimonies where divine empowerment helped them surmount obstacles. Sample Answer: "I remember a time at work when I faced overwhelming pressure, but through prayer and reliance on Christ, I found the strength to persevere."

BECOME

Moving from Belief to Action. Advancing the gospel is both a joy and a challenge—a mission that requires real sacrifice and hard work. It is not just about what we believe; it is about what we do with that belief.

How were you touched by the real-life testimonies such as the transformation seen in prison ministry at New Life Transitional Home or the Victorious Living prison service?

- **Fill-in-the-Blank:**

“This week, I will advance the gospel by _____, trusting that every sacrifice I make brings me closer to the hope of glory in Christ.”

Leader Notes: Encourage each participant to identify one concrete action—whether volunteering time, giving resources, or sharing their story—that will contribute to our collective mission. Remind the group that our sacrifices, though sometimes painful, are instrumental in proclaiming Christ’s glory. Close your session with a prayer that echoes Pastor Danny’s call to action, reminding us that nothing is greater than the work of grace in our lives.