

Colossians 1:1-14



Conversation Starters:

- **Who is a woman who has deeply encouraged your faith? (Mom, grandmother, or spiritual mother)**
- **What is one encouraging thing that someone has said to you that you have never forgotten?**
- **Why does encouragement matter so much in shaping a person's life?**

Scripture passage: Colossians 1:3-14

***The Apostle Paul gives us 4 ways he encouraged the church in Colossae which we can use to encourage our families today.**

Observation 1- Encourage what God is doing in them.

Scripture: Colossians 1:3-5

Questions: a) Why is it important to encourage people for who they are becoming rather than just what they do? **b)** How can we shift from praising performance to praising faith? **c)** What are some practical ways mothers (or spiritual mothers) can encourage Christlike character?

Statement: Paul celebrates their faith and love, but he points to the hope of the gospel as the source. A godly mother not only affirms behavior, she affirms belief and identity in Christ. Encouragement rooted in the gospel builds hearts, not just habits.

Observation 2- Encourage what God is doing beyond them.

Scripture: Colossians 1:6-8

Questions: a) Why is it easy to become inward-focused in our families? **b)** How can families intentionally stay connected to God's mission? **c)** How can we help others to see God's global work?

Statement: Paul reminds the church in Colossae that they are a part of something bigger than themselves. Mothers can help children see that they belong to God's greater story and mission. Godly encouragement takes our eyes off ourselves and helps us to see God's larger purpose.

Observation 3- Pray for what God has for them.

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-12.

Questions: a) Are your prayers for your family more out of worry and concern or are they prayers of faith for them? **b)** Which of Paul's prayers stands out most to you? Why? **c)** How can we begin to pray these specific prayers over our children and families?

Statement: Paul models faith filled prayers, not fear-driven prayers. Faith filled prayers align hearts with God's purpose and power. A mother's prayers will shape a child's future more than her worries ever will.

Observation 4- Remind them what God has done for them.

Scripture: Colossians 1:13-14

Questions: a) Why do we need to remember what Jesus has done? **b)** How can your testimony encourage others?

Statement: The gospel is the foundation of all encouragement. Our greatest hope is in what Christ has already done. Who is one person God is calling you to encourage this week? What specific action will you take?

Prayer:

- Thank God for mothers and spiritual mothers who reflected God's heart and have encouraged us and prayed for us and pointed us to God.
- Pray that God will help us encourage not just actions, but hearts rooted in God.
- Pray that God will teach us to see what He is doing in others and speak life into them.
- Take prayer requests & pray together.

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