

World Changing Families Through Christ Stronger Families Through Christ - Part 6

Life Church St. Louis October 26, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Introduction

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV) You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV) Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

John 8:12 (ESV) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

1. Pray Together with Purpose

Colossians 4:2 (ESV) Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:3 (ESV) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison.

Colossians 4:4 (ESV) That I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

2. Live Wisely Before a Watching World

Colossians 4:5 (ESV) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Colossians 4:6 (ESV) Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Colossians 4:7-9 (ESV) Tychicus ... is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that ... he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you ...

3. Work Together in Gospel Friendship

Colossians 4:10-11 (ESV) Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark ... if he comes to you, welcome him, and ... Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

Colossians 4:12-13 (ESV) Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you ...

Colossians 4:14-18 (ESV) Luke .. greets you, as does Demas. Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, ... say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord." Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

World Changing Families Through Christ Study Guide

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Introduction

1. When you think about a “world-changing family,” what qualities or practices come to mind, and which of those feel most within reach for your home right now?
2. Where is your family tempted to “hide the lamp,” and what would it look like to place your light on a stand where others can see Christ’s goodness (Matthew 5:14–16)?
3. In a culture that often grumbles and argues, what habits help your family shine as distinct and hopeful “lights in the world” (Philippians 2:14–15)?
4. Since Jesus is the light of the world, how can following Him more closely this week keep your family from walking in darkness (John 8:12)?

1. Pray Together with Purpose

1. What would it look like for your family to persist in prayer with watchfulness and thanksgiving, even when answers seem slow (Colossians 4:2)?
2. How can you begin praying for “open doors” to share Christ in the ordinary flow of errands, conversations, and friendships (Colossians 4:3)?
3. When an opportunity to speak about Jesus comes, what helps you be clear and gentle rather than anxious or silent (Colossians 4:4)?
4. This week, when and where will your household pray together, and what names or needs beyond your own family will you bring before God?

2. Live Wisely Before a Watching World

1. Who are the “outsiders” God has placed near your family, and how can wisdom guide your next step toward them (Colossians 4:5)?

2. What would it take for your everyday words to be more gracious and “seasoned with salt,” especially in stressful moments (Colossians 4:6)?
3. How can your family practice honoring and encouraging fellow believers so that the gospel is visible in how you speak about others (Colossians 4:7–9)?
4. Looking at your calendar, what is one time choice you can change this week to make the best use of your time for Christ?

3. Work Together in Gospel Friendship

1. Where might your family need to extend welcome or rebuild trust, like Paul’s instruction to receive Mark, so that partnership in the gospel can grow (Colossians 4:10–11)?
2. Who is an “Epaphras” in your life, and how can you imitate his persistent intercession for others to stand mature in God’s will (Colossians 4:12–13)?
3. What does it look like for your home to join the wider network of believers, serving faithfully alongside people like Nympha and encouraging those with specific ministries (Colossians 4:14–18)?
4. What is one concrete way your household can team up with another person or family this month to pray, serve, or host for the sake of the gospel?

Conclusion

1. If your home were a lamp in the window, who nearby most needs its steady, welcoming light, and what can you do this week to help them notice?
2. Which single practice will most help your family stay bright right now: praying together, speaking with grace, or partnering with others, and what is your first step?
3. Looking ahead, how will you keep this from being a momentary spark and instead become a durable way your family shines Christ’s hope where darkness once ruled?