

# The Book of Colossians

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A T E X T - D R I V E N   R E S O U R C E



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September 2023

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# The Book of Colossians

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## 4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY WORKSHEET

Welcome! Thank you for choosing Text-Driven Ministries for your journey through the Bible. You will find each Bible Study published through Text-Driven Ministries to focus upon the knowing and understanding of God's Word. Our goal is that through each of our Text-Driven Bible Studies, you will be encouraged, edified, and equipped to live a text-driven life.

To help you know and understand the Bible, we have developed a method for studying your Bible. We call this method the (4) L's of Text-Driven Bible Study. To receive in-depth teaching on the (4) L's of Text-Driven Bible Study, you can find teaching videos, articles on each step of the (4) L's of Text-Driven Bible Study, and podcast episodes on our website: [www.textdriven.org](http://www.textdriven.org).

Here is a brief overview explaining how to use the (4) L's of Text-Driven Bible Study. First, you will be "Looking up to God" in prayer. Asking for God's help, before studying His Word, is a critical first step. Second, you will "Listen to God" as you read the biblical passage. Training yourself to read for comprehension and understanding is very important. Too often, we jump to application before ever taking the time to hear what God has to say. Third, you will "Learn from God" as you study. God has given us His Spirit to teach us. In the third step, you will answer two questions: 1) What does the passage teach me about God? and 2) What does the passage teach me about humanity? Fourth, you will "Live unto God" in our application. Only after you have learned what the passage is teaching can you apply the passage to your life. By learning the passage first, you can now make text-driven applications.

Studying the Bible can be intimidating. However, God wants you to know Him. He has made Himself known to us through His Word. We are confident at Text-Driven Ministries that you will know God as you submit to Him in your study of His Word.

By His grace,



**Dr. Timothy Pigg**

**4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY WORKSHEET**

**1 LOOK**  
Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you understand the passage.

**2 LISTEN**  
Listen through the passage of Scripture you are studying a minimum of five times.  
Check off each time you listen to the passage.  
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Here are some ways to listen to God:  
• Read the passage out loud  
• Read the passage silently  
• Write out the passage  
• Hear the passage read to you  
• Read the passage in multiple translations

**3 LEARN**  
To begin learning the main idea, answer three questions:

What are 10 observations from the passage?  
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What does this passage teach us about man?  
☐ Justification ☐ Sanctification ☐ Glorification

What does this passage teach us about God?  
☐ Authority/Lordship ☐ Power ☐ Love/Compassion

**4 LIVE**  
Write 1-3 actions that need to change in your life according to what you have just learned from God's Word.  
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Who am I going to share what I learned with?  
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## Extras

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4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY GUIDE  
INTRODUCTION TO COLOSSIANS  
READ AND UNDERSTAND COLOSSIANS  
WEEK AT A GLANCE  
SCRIPTURE ART

# Introduction to Colossians

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## ON THE TIMELINE

Paul wrote Colossians during his first Roman imprisonment (Col. 4:3, 10, 18) in the early AD 60s. Together with Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon, Paul's letter to the Colossians is commonly classified as a "prison epistle."

## BACKGROUND

During his ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10), Paul sent Epaphras to spread the gospel in the Lycus Valley. Epaphras subsequently established the church at Colossae (Col. 1:7, 4:12-13). The city's population consisted mostly of Phrygians and Greeks, but also included a significant number of Jews. Likewise, the church was comprised mostly of Gentiles (Col. 1:21, 27; 2:13), but it also had Jewish members (Col. 2:11, 16, 18, 21; 3:11). When Epaphras (Philemon 23) informed Paul of certain heretical teachings that had spread there, Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians as a theological antidote.

## MESSAGE + PURPOSE

Paul wrote this letter to counter the Colossians' heresy that he considered contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The false teaching is identified as "philosophy" (Col. 2:8), presumably drawn from some Hellenistic traditions as indicated in the references to the "fullness" (Col. 1:19), the "elements of the world" (Col. 2:8, 20), "wisdom" (Col. 2:3, 23), and "self-made religion" (Col. 2:23).

The false gospel contained several Jewish elements, from circumcision (Col. 2:11; 3:11) and "human tradition" (Col. 2:8), to Sabbath observance, food regulations, festival participation (Col. 2:16), and more. Paul addressed the combination of philosophies by teaching a proper understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ and its appropriate implications for Christian salvation and conduct.

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Colossians provides one of the Bible's fullest expressions of the deity and supremacy of Christ. This is most evident in the magnificent hymn of praise found in Colossians 1:15-20, which sets forth Christ as the image of the invisible God, the Creator and sustainer of the universe. He is the head of His body, the Church, and the One through whom forgiveness is possible.

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## GOING DEEPER SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:1-2	Rom. 1:7; 1 Jn 3:1-2
Colossians 1:3-14	Ps. 1:1-3; Matt. 24:14
Colossians 1:15-23	1 Cor. 8:5-6; Jude 24-25
Colossians 1:24-2:7	Is. 11:1-5; 2 Tim. 1:8-10
Colossians 2:8-15	Matt. 15:1-9; Rom. 7:4
Colossians 2:16-23	Rom. 14; Heb. 10:1-10
Colossians 3:1-17	Jn 11:25; Rom. 6:1-14
Colossians 3:18-4:1	Matt. 6:33; Eph. 5:22-6:9
Colossians 4:2-6	Ps. 145:18-19; Phil. 4:6-7
Colossians 4:7-18	Rom. 15:30-33; Phil. 1:3-7

## READ AND UNDERSTAND COLOSSIANS

The Bible is a complete work in which many stories combine to tell one story. As you read the book of Colossians, consider reading the additional passages, listed on the right, to discover how the whole of Scripture works together.



1



WEEK ONE: DAY 2  
COLOSSIANS 1 READING NOTES

Handwriting practice area consisting of a grid of dots for letter formation.

WEEK ONE: DAY 3  
COLOSSIANS 2 READING NOTES

Handwriting practice area consisting of a grid of dots for letter formation.

WEEK ONE: DAY 4  
COLOSSIANS 3 READING NOTES

Handwriting practice area consisting of a grid of dots for tracing and independent writing.

WEEK ONE: DAY 5  
COLOSSIANS 4 READING NOTES

Handwriting practice area consisting of a grid of dots for tracing and independent writing.

2

# Week at a Glance

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COL. 1:1-14

## DIGGING DEEPER READING

Romans 1:7

1 John 3:1-2

Psalm 1:1-3

Matthew 24:14

## BIG IDEA

### > Colossians 1:1-8

In verses 1-8, the apostle Paul greets the Colossian church and thanks God for them, because of the fruit that the gospel is producing in them since the day it arrived through the ministry of Epaphras.

### > Colossians 1:9-14

In verses 9-14, Paul reports the content of the prayer that he and Timothy offer on behalf of the Colossians so that they might become fully pleasing to the Lord in every way.

## IMPORTANT WORDS

### > Apostle

Apostle means "one who is sent" and refers to one who is an official representative of another. In the New Testament, the word refers specifically to those whom Jesus chose to represent Him (1:1).

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

### > The Gospel of the Grace of God (1:6)

The Gospel of Truth (1:5)

The Fruit-Bearing Gospel of Faith, Hope, and Love (1:6)

## THEOLOGICAL THEMES

### > The Trinity (1:1-8, 1:15-19, 2:9)

Thanksgiving (1:3-8)





WEEK TWO: DAY 2  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 1:1-8

1

**LOOK**

Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you understand the passage.

2

**LISTEN**

Listen through the passage of Scripture you are studying a minimum of five times.

*Check off each time you listen to the passage.*

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Here are some ways to listen to God:

- Read the passage out loud
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- Hear the passage read to you
- Read the passage in multiple translations

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To begin learning the main idea, answer three questions:

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What does this passage teach us about man?

☐ Justification ☐ Sanctification ☐ Glorification

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What does this passage teach us about God?

☐ Authority/Lordship ☐ Power ☐ Love/Covenant

- 
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4

**LIVE**

Write 1-3 actions that need to change in your life according to what you have just learned from God's Word.

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- 

Who am I going to share what I learned with?

- 
- 
-

WEEK TWO: DAY 3  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Take time to reflect on the implications of Colossians 1:1-8 for your life. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in his gracious promises. Note the personal implications for your walk with the Lord in light of the Gospel Glimpses, Theological Themes, and this passage as a whole.

Handwriting practice area with dotted lines.

WEEK TWO: DAY 4  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 1:9-14

1

**LOOK**

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WEEK TWO: DAY 5  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Read Colossians 1:10-12. Take time to list and reflect on the four ways Paul provides in order to live a life fully pleasing to God.

Handwriting practice area with a grid of dots for tracing and writing.

“

...walk in a manner worthy  
of the Lord,  
fully pleasing to him:  
bearing fruit in every good work  
and increasing in the  
knowledge of God...

Colossians 1:10

3

# Week at a Glance

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COL. 1:15-23

## DIGGING DEEPER READING

1 Corinthians 8:5-6

Jude 24-25

## BIG IDEA

### > Colossians 1:15-23

In verses 15-23, Paul introduces a hymn that extols Christ's preeminence over both creation and the inaugurated new creation by virtue of his unique role in God's reconciliation. Paul does so to explain to the Colossians that they have been truly swept up into this reconciliation, as they now display a picture of reconciliation and persevering faith.

## IMPORTANT WORDS

### > Preeminence

The quality of being first, foremost, or of the highest significance. In the Bible, this quality is attributed supremely to Christ (1:18).

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

### > The Cross

## THEOLOGICAL THEMES

### > The Deity of Christ

The Humanity of Christ

## WORSHIP SONG

God of The Ages by Charles Billingsley





WEEK THREE: DAY 2  
4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 1:15-18

1

**LOOK**

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WEEK THREE: DAY 3  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

The last phrase in verse 18 is mainly theological in nature, but it has profound application in the life of a believer. If Jesus is "preeminent" in all things, that means that he has first place in everything within the created order. You will often have to give yourself a priority check, making sure that neither your marriage, your home, your children, your work, nor anything else is stealing first place from Jesus. Because everything in your life is dependent upon your relationship with Christ, you must learn to mature your walk with the Lord and give Him the "first place" position He demands and deserves. Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you put Him in His right position.

Handwriting practice area with dotted lines for tracing and independent writing.

Handwriting practice area with dotted lines for tracing and independent writing.

WEEK THREE: DAY 4  
4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 1:19-23

1

**LOOK**

Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you understand the passage.

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WEEK THREE: DAY 5  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Read Colossians 1:15-23. Paul describes Jesus as being first in all things. Jesus is to be first in the church, in the home, and in all your life. What areas do you need to change in your life in order to make Jesus first?

Handwriting practice area consisting of a grid of dots for letter formation.



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:15-20

4

# Week at a Glance

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COL. 1:24-2:5

## DIGGING DEEPER READING

Isaiah 11:1-5

2 Timothy 1:8-10

## BIG IDEA

### > Colossians 1:24-2:5

In Colossians 1:24-2:5, Paul explains the apostolic charge given him by God to bring the message of Christ to the Gentile nations and therefore why, despite his imprisonment, he is laboring for the Colossian church and warning them against false teaching.

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

### > Christ, the Mystery (1:26-27)

Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

## THEOLOGICAL THEMES

### > Suffering (1:24)

The Divine Wisdom (2:3)





WEEK FOUR: DAY 2  
4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 1:24-29

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WEEK FOUR: DAY 3  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Colossians 1:27 states, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Unpack the meaning of this statement in a prayer to God.

WEEK FOUR: DAY 4  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 2:1-5

1

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WEEK FOUR: DAY 5  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

According to Colossians 2:1-3, what is the goal of Paul's "struggle" and how does that change any struggle that you are going through?

“

To them God chose  
to make known  
how great among the Gentiles  
are the riches of the glory  
of this mystery,  
which is Christ in you,  
the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

5

# Week at a Glance

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COL. 2:6-23

## DIGGING DEEPER READING

Matthew 15:1-9

Romans 7:4

Romans 14

Hebrews 10:1-10

## BIG IDEA

### > Colossians 2:6-23

The Colossian faithful are to reject the false teaching being offered by some people in their midst, because in Christ they have all they need for salvation and for their ongoing life with God.

## IMPORTANT WORDS

### > Heresy

A religious opinion or belief that is contrary and opposed to the Word of God.

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

### > Union With Christ

Dying and Rising With Christ

## THEOLOGICAL THEMES

### > Jesus, The Lord (2:6)

False Teaching and Worldviews





WEEK FIVE: DAY 2  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 2:6-15

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Who am I going to share what I learned with?

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WEEK FIVE: DAY 3  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Read Colossians 2:6-7, what would it look like for you to "walk in Christ" and be "abounding in thanksgiving?"

WEEK FIVE: DAY 4  
4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 2:16-23

1

**LOOK**

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2

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WEEK FIVE: DAY 5  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

According to Colossians 2:18-19, what is the fundamental problem with the false teachers, resulting in their vain and "puffed up" spirit? What are some ways that you can "hold fast to the Head (Jesus)" and protect yourself from developing such a spirit?

“

Therefore, as you received  
Christ Jesus the Lord,  
so walk in him,  
rooted and built up in him  
and established in the faith,  
just as you were taught,  
abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-8

6

# Week at a Glance

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COL. 3:1-11

## DIGGING DEEPER READING

John 11:25

Romans 6:1-14

## BIG IDEA

### > Colossians 3:1-11

Paul exhorts the Colossian disciples to become who they are in Christ, whose perfect image and character serve as a pattern for their own renewal as image-bearers of God.

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

### > Saved from the Wrath of God (3:6)

## THEOLOGICAL THEMES

### > The Image of God and Christ (3:9-10)





WEEK SIX: DAY 2  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 3:1-4

1

**LOOK**

Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you understand the passage.

2

**LISTEN**

Listen through the passage of Scripture you are studying a minimum of five times.

*Check off each time you listen to the passage.*

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

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4

**LIVE**

Write 1-3 actions that need to change in your life according to what you have just learned from God's Word.

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Who am I going to share what I learned with?

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WEEK SIX: DAY 3  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Spend some time in prayer today asking the Lord to help you prioritize "seeking the things that are above."

WEEK SIX: DAY 4  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 3:5 - 11

1

**LOOK**

Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you understand the passage.

2

**LISTEN**

Listen through the passage of Scripture you are studying a minimum of five times.

*Check off each time you listen to the passage.*

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Here are some ways to listen to God:

- Read the passage out loud
- Read the passage silently
- Write out the passage
- Hear the passage read to you
- Read the passage in multiple translations

3

**LEARN**

To begin learning the main idea, answer three questions:

What are 10 observations from the passage?

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What does this passage teach us about man?

☐ Justification ☐ Sanctification ☐ Glorification

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What does this passage teach us about God?

☐ Authority/Lordship ☐ Power ☐ Love/Covenant

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Write 1-3 actions that need to change in your life according to what you have just learned from God's Word.

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WEEK SIX: DAY 5  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Read Colossians 3:5-11. Take time to reflect on the implications of the passage for your life. Consider what you are needing to "put to death." Ask Jesus to continue to work in you, for you, and through you as you put to death the things in your life that are not of God.

Handwriting practice area with dotted lines for tracing and independent writing.

“

If then you have been  
raised with Christ,  
seek the things that are above,  
where Christ is,  
seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

7

# Week at a Glance

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COL. 3:12-4:1

## DIGGING DEEPER READING

Matthew 6:33

Ephesians 5:22-6:9

## BIG IDEA

### > Colossians 3:12-4:1

Paul exhorts the Colossian disciples to become who they are in Christ and provides specific instructions for believers' relationships with members of their own household

## IMPORTANT WORDS

### > Sanctification

The process of looking more like Christ. See right column.

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

### > The Gospel and Culture (3:18-4:1)

The Inheritance (3:24)

## THEOLOGICAL THEMES

### > Sanctification (3:12)

The Word of Christ (3:16)

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While Scripture teaches that we were declared holy when we first received Christ (see 1 Cor. 6:11), it also teaches that we are to actively and daily pursue growth in personal holiness. Paul himself calls the Colossians "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved" (3:12). However, he then immediately exhorts them to "put on" the new humanity with all its accompanying virtues (3:12-17). Our assurance, in what is sometimes a discouraging process, is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (1:27). Christ is working in us by his Spirit, ensuring that we are being renewed as image-bearers of God (3:9-10). What he has begun in us he has promised to complete (Phil. 1:6).

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WEEK SEVEN: DAY 2  
4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 3:12-17

1

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WEEK SEVEN: DAY 3  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Because they have "put on the new self" in Christ, the church is to "put on" the virtues that correspond to being one of God's chosen. List and circle which virtue you need to "put on" from Colossians 3:12-17.

Handwriting practice area consisting of a grid of dots for letter formation.

WEEK SEVEN: DAY 4  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 3:18 - 4:1

1

**LOOK**

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2

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WEEK SEVEN: DAY 5  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Paul mentions three relationships: 1) Wives and Husbands (v.18-19), 2) Children and Parents (v.20-21), and 3) Slaves and Masters (v.22). Read the passage again and slowly evaluate your relationships in light of Paul's instruction and relational framework.

“

Let the word of Christ dwell in you  
richly, teaching and admonishing  
one another in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual  
songs, with thankfulness in your hearts  
to God. And whatever you do,  
in word or deed, do everything in the  
name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father  
through him.

Colossians 3:16-17

8

# Week at a Glance

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COL. 4:2-18

## DIGGING DEEPER READING

Psalm 145:18-19  
Philippians 4:6-7  
Philippians 1:3-7  
Romans 15:30-33

## BIG IDEA



### Colossians 4:2-18

Paul provides specific instructions for believers' relationships with those outside and unfamiliar with the Christian faith (4:2-6) and concludes his letter by passing on greetings from six coworkers in providing final instructions to ensure that the Colossians remain steadfast in the faith (4:7-18).

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES



### Wrestling With the Gospel (4:7-18)

## THEOLOGICAL THEMES



### Prayer (4:2)

### The Kingdom of God (4:11)





WEEK EIGHT: DAY 2  
4 L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 4:2-9

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WEEK EIGHT: DAY 3  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

Colossians 4:2 states, "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." Spend intentional time writing out your prayers to God this week.

Handwriting practice area with a grid of dots for tracing and writing.

WEEK EIGHT: DAY 4  
4L TEXT-DRIVEN STUDY | Colossians 4:10-18

1

**LOOK**

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WEEK EIGHT: DAY 5  
PRAYER + APPLICATION

“

Continue steadfastly in  
prayer, being watchful in it  
with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2



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