

Discussion Questions for Life Groups

Read Col. 4:7-18, and then review the main points of the sermon outline.

1. **(Brothers - encouragement)** Read Col. 4:7-8. Of all the things we do for one another in Christ, encouragement certainly comes near the top of the list! Who is one of the most consistent encouragers you know, and what has been that person's effect on you and other believers?
2. **(Brothers - surprise)** Read Col. 4:9 and Philemon 1:8-21. Trusting Christ can bring some dramatic and surprising changes, because we must face our acts and responsibilities as servants of Christ. Onesimus was returning home to make things right. Tell us an example in your own life where God lead you to make something right.
3. **(Co-laborers: second chances)** Read Col. 4:10-12. Mark did not stay with Paul on his first journey (Acts 13:13), but he later proved himself (2 Tim. 4:11) and here enjoys Paul's endorsement. When someone fails you (whether by sin or not), what must they do to re-enter your circle of associates in the work of Christ? How can we welcome them back as we should?
4. **(Co-laborers: hero & deserter)** Read Col. 4:10, 14. In the body of Christ we will meet all kinds of people, some devoted and some not. Aristarchus was as good as they come (Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2). Demas deserted Paul for worldly reasons (2 Tim. 4:10). What effect does this broad spectrum of maturity have on our church and our Life Groups? How can we avoid being like Demas but instead model on Aristarchus? How can we avoid being like Demas but instead model on Aristarchus?
5. **(Co-laborers: generosity)** Read Col. 4:15. Nympha gives us an example of Christian hospitality and generosity. There is no time like the present to thank those who routinely host your Life Group! In fact, how can we make thankfulness a routine response to the generosity of McFBC members?
6. **(Challenge!)** Read Col. 4:17. Like Archippus all of us have a ministry to carry out in the body of Christ. What is a ministry God wants you to carry out as a member of McFBC, and how is it going?
7. **(Challenge!)** Read Col. 4:16-18. Paul closes the letter by reminding us that being a steward for God is not all fun and games, and yet by God's grace we have everything we need to serve as a steward. As you look back over the various people in this passage, with whom do you most identify in your journey toward maturity in Christ? Please explain.

Enrichment Study for Life Groups

Eph. 6:21	More about Tychicus.
Philemon	More insight about Onesimus..
Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2	More about Aristarchus.
Acts 15:37-39, 2 Tim. 4:11	More about Mark.

Col. 1:7

More about Epaphras.

2 Tim. 4:10

More about Demas.

Heads-Up for Next Sunday

**Thanksgiving Service!!
(Bruce Miller on November 19, 2006)**

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