



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you had the vacation time & money to go on the summer adventure of your dreams, what and where would it be?

1. Pastor Tom said that alert, “focused-out” Christ-followers “don’t just pray the same prayers in the same way for the same things with the same words....” How does, or could, being alert in prayer change the way you pray? ([Colossians 4:2](#)).
2. Pastor Tom reminded us that our prayers don’t need to convince God to rescue lost people ([1 Timothy 2:3-4](#), [2 Peter 3:9](#)). He is already fully invested. So, what then do you pray for when focusing out on lost people you know (See [Colossians 4:3](#)), and how does that make you feel?
3. The scariest thing about praying for an open door is we’re afraid we won’t know what to say or do when God opens it. Read [James 1:5-8](#) and talk about the remedy to this fear pointed out by Pastor Tom. Share a time when you have experienced God’s wisdom working through you or a situation you’re currently in where you need to have God work through you.
4. Pastor Tom declared that “focused-out people let grace shape their speech” ([Colossians 4:6](#)). What does “gracious speech” look like to God ([Ephesians 4:29](#)), and what steps can you take to ensure you are using it when speaking with everyone, especially during this polarizing political season?
5. This week we celebrate the most profound, mind-blowing, heart-melting event in human history that has literally changed time and eternity for millions upon millions of people. So, as a prayer driven, focused-out child of God...who is the wisdom of God leading you to invite to sit with you at one or more Easter services and will you take that step?

Day One: [John 1](#); [Psalm 69](#)

Day Four: [1 Thessalonians 4](#); [Jeremiah 3](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 19](#); [Proverbs 7](#)

Day Five: [Job 7](#); [Acts 13](#)

Day Three: [Hebrews 4](#); [1 Samuel 20](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

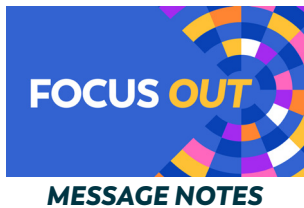


FOCUS OUT

“DO YOU SEE?”

Mar 24, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



"DO YOU SEE?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...when Jesus is _____ in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise alone, it will have a positive impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

Note [Colossians 3:17](#)

So what does it look like to be someone who is *focused out* on _____ lost people?

1. Focused-Out People _____ (note [Colossians 4:2](#))

_____ is always one of the most significant ways any person can connect with God.

What does it mean to _____ yourselves to prayer?

Paul tells us it means to be prayer that happens with an _____ mind and a *thankful heart*.

Alert mind...watchful...stay _____...pay attention...have your eyes wide open...be vigilant...

Focused-out people don't just pray the _____ prayers in the _____ way for the _____ things with the same words...
...they're paying attention to what's _____...

Let prayer _____ what you read and watch.
Gratitude is what produces _____ and peace in our lives (note [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)).

2. Focused-Out People Let Prayer Shape How They _____ with Lost People (note [Colossians 4:3-4](#))

We don't need to convince God to _____ lost people (note [1 Timothy 2:3-4](#) and [2 Peter 3:9](#)).

Instead, pray for an *open door* and for an ability to _____ communicate the greatest good news ever.

3. Focused-Out People Let Wisdom Shape Their _____ (note [Colossians 4:5](#))

...as good as some types of human wisdom are, the greatest and most _____ source of wisdom is God Himself (note [1 Corinthians 1:24-25](#); [Colossians 2:3](#)).

Note [James 1:5-8](#)

And we especially need wisdom as we _____ life and conversations with people who haven't said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord... And when God's wisdom is shaping our speech and behavior, we will _____ for every opportunity to touch a lost person with the greatest good news ever... (note [Colossians 4:5](#))

4. Focused-Out People Let _____ Shape Their Speech (note [Colossians 4:6](#))

_____ mean things.

Tone and body language _____ or contradict your words (note [Colossians 4:6](#)).

Salt = makes things _____...and creates _____ (note [John 4:10, 13, 14](#)).

How we _____ words matters (note [Ephesians 4:29](#)).

And in a world where words are _____ like never before...words inspired by and delivered with grace open doors and answer questions even before they're asked.

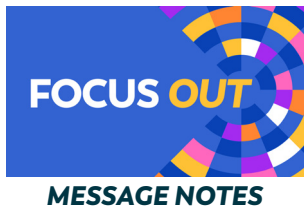
Am I *focused OUT*?

- There's no better week to put into practice being a *focused-out* person (_____ weekend coming up!!)
- Being a *focused-out* person starts by saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"DO YOU SEE?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...when Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise alone, it will have a positive impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

Note [Colossians 3:17](#)

So what does it look like to be someone who is *focused out* on reaching lost people?

1. Focused-Out People Pray (note [Colossians 4:2](#))

Prayer is always one of the most significant ways any person can connect with God.

What does it mean to devote yourselves to prayer?

Paul tells us it means to be prayer that happens with an alert mind and a *thankful heart*.

Alert mind...watchful...stay awake...pay attention...have your eyes wide open...be vigilant...

Focused-out people don't just pray the same prayers in the same way for the same things with the same words...

...they're paying attention to what's happening...

Let prayer transform what you read and watch.

Gratitude is what produces joy and peace in our lives (note [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)).

2. Focused-Out People Let Prayer Shape How They Connect with Lost People (note [Colossians 4:3-4](#))

We don't need to convince God to rescue lost people (note [1 Timothy 2:3-4](#) and [2 Peter 3:9](#)).

Instead, pray for an *open door* and for an ability to clearly communicate the greatest good news ever.

3. Focused-Out People Let Wisdom Shape Their Actions

(note [Colossians 4:5](#))

...as good as some types of human wisdom are, the greatest and most unlimited source of wisdom is God Himself (note [1 Corinthians 1:24-25](#); [Colossians 2:3](#)).

Note [James 1:5-8](#)

And we especially need wisdom as we navigate life and conversations with people who haven't said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord...

And when God's wisdom is shaping our speech and behavior, we will grasp for every opportunity to touch a lost person with the greatest good news ever... (note [Colossians 4:5](#))

4. Focused-Out People Let Grace Shape Their Speech

(note [Colossians 4:6](#))

Words mean things.

Tone and body language confirm or contradict your words (note [Colossians 4:6](#)).

Salt = makes things flavorful...and creates thirst... (note [John 4:10, 13, 14](#)).

How we use words matters (note [Ephesians 4:29](#)).

And in a world where words are weaponized like never before...words inspired by and delivered with grace open doors and answer questions even before they're asked.

Am I focused OUT?

- There's no better week to put into practice being a *focused-out* person (Easter weekend coming up!!)
- Being a *focused-out* person starts by saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



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